Urban Village by the Bay

ALBANYCALIFORNIA



Senator Nancy Skinner Senate Budget Conferee Budget Conference Committee State Capitol, Rm. 2059 Sacramento, CA 95814 FAX: (916) 651-4909

Assembly Member Philip Ting Assembly Budget Conferee Budget Conference Committee State Capitol, Rm. 6026 Sacramento, CA 95814 FAX: (916) 319-2119

June 7, 2018

RE: Support for Homelessness Funding

The Honorable Senate and Assembly Conferees of the Budget Conference Committee:

The City of Albany strongly encourages you to prioritize and support, in the final FY 2018-19 State Budget, significant new funding to assist cities' efforts to address the homelessness crisis that is affecting nearly every region of the state.

After steady declines in homelessness between 2007-2014, California has seen an unfortunate spike in homelessness, with a significant increase in the number of unsheltered people in our communities. Domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, employment opportunities and the cost of health care have also pushed individuals into homelessness.

It is clear that homelessness is a statewide problem that eludes a one-size-fits-all solution. This is why cities are at the forefront of responding to this crisis. However, cities cannot adequately address the homelessness crisis alone. State resources are desperately needed to bolster local services and programs targeting homelessness. Cities in particular need a direct allocation of flexible funding that can be used for emergency responses to homelessness that include shelters, navigation centers, bridge housing, and motel vouchers.

State funding for local homelessness programs is extremely important to ensure quality of life and economic viability for all Californians. The City of Albany strongly encourages you to maximize homelessness program funding while also providing a direct allocation of flexible funding that can

be used immediately by cities for emergency responses to homelessness. We look forward to continuing to work with you and stakeholders on the final budget proposal.

Sincerely,

Peggy McQuaid

Mayor

City of Albany, CA

cc: The Honorable Edmond G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California; FAX:

(916) 558-3177

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The Honorable Toni G. Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate; FAX: (916) 651-4939

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly; FAX: (916) 319-2163

Assembly Member Tony Thurmond, <u>assemblymember.thurmond@assembly.ca.gov</u> Sam Caygill, League of California Cities, East Bay Division, <u>scaygill@cacities.org</u> Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, <u>cityletters@cacities.org</u>