



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

Board Meeting Date: 12/11/2018

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Michael Callagy, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #22 of 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Public Safety

Countywide emergency notification enrollment making gains

Countywide enrollment in SMC Alert, the opt-in emergency notification system, has increased past the national average for similar subscriptions but especially in light of recent events like the California wildfires and Alaska earthquake, the goal is to expand the ranks wider. Between Sept, 20, 2018 and Nov. 15, 2018, the system grew to 95, 659 members. That figure is 12.5 percent of the county's population of 764,797 and higher than the national average of approximately 8 percent. Emergency notifications are a key tool to public safety and I'd like to encourage this Board's constituents as well as all who work or visit San Mateo County to let us know how to reach you at critical times. As a reminder, individuals can enroll at smcalert.info and customize the alerts they receive based on location and type of emergency.

Health and Human Services

Federally proposed changes to immigrant eligibility could have 'chilling effect'

The federal administration's proposed changes to the rule that immigrants receiving some cash and noncash public benefits may be ineligible for a green card or temporary visa could have a "chilling effect" on those who are not affected but confused or fearful. For example, a recent citizenship workshop in San Mateo County right after the proposed change was announced drew only 50

residents as opposed to the 300 that attended previously in the same location.

Several County departments including the Human Services Agency (HSA), Health, Housing and the Office of Community Affairs are working to clarify the proposed change to the public charge rule in hopes that legally present immigrants and U.S. citizen children don't avoid or disenroll from government benefits like affordable health care. HSA with legal service provider International Institute of the Bay Area produced an educational video for staff and clients translated with help from the Office of Community Affairs into four languages: English, Spanish, Chinese and Tagalog. The Health System also has a page of FAQs on its website and the County submitted a letter on the draft regulations during the comment period that ended Dec. 10, 2018.

Community Services

Peninsula Library System launches auto-renewal program

The Peninsula Library System, a Joint Powers Authority of 35 public and community college libraries including San Mateo County Libraries, recently launched a new automatic renewals program aimed at providing convenience and reduced fines. Earlier this year, San Mateo County Libraries lead the pilot program that is now permanent.

Library users will have non-digital items automatically renewed one day before it is due and receive an e-mail alert about the extension. All cardholders are eligible, including children, if they have less than \$15 due in fines. Items that don't qualify include those that already reached their renewal limit, are on hold for other patrons or expired prior to the new program's start.

Measure K

Measure K Oversight Committee accepts 2017-18 annual audit

The Measure K Oversight Committee on November 29 reviewed the 2017-18 Annual Audit of Measure K Sales Tax Receipts prepared by the Controller's Office. The Committee also established a subcommittee to review performance measures for initiatives funded in whole or in part with Measure K funds. From July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, a total of \$89,602,980.69 from the half-cent Measure K sales tax were deposited in the Measure K Fund. The Committee will submit its final FY 2017-18 annual report to the Board of Supervisors in February.

News, Events and Updates

County joins in San Francisquito Creek project 'Celebration of Safety'

The County of San Mateo this Friday will join other member agencies of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to mark the completed construction of the flood protection features on the Bay-to-Highway 101 project. The "Celebration of Safety" as the Dec. 14 event is billed, commemorates that thousands of residents and businesses will no longer have to fear high creek flows and may even save on future flood insurance. The project, which involved years of planning, design and construction, also created a new nature-friendly marsh with a wider channel and improved trails. This is the first of two projects planned with the second upstream span in the planning phase. Interesting fact - the proposal for the improvement project was first mentioned in the minutes from a 1955 Palo Alto City Council meeting.