



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

Board Meeting Date: 1/14/2020

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Michael Callagy, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #1 of 2020

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:

Health and Human Services

Children's Fund brings holiday gifts to thousands of youth

The 2019 annual Children's Fund Holiday Gift Drive provides more than 4,616 presents to 2,405 low income and foster youth this past holiday season. Countless teams of Human Services Agency staff and volunteers from numerous County departments helped sort the items generously donated by San Mateo County residents. Our residents are always quick to fill the empty toy shelves when asked and our staff are always eager to volunteer to match each child with a gift that matches their wish list.

HSA issues new community resource guide

The Human Services Agency (HSA) just issued the 2020 Community Information Handbook which includes contact information for numerous agency resources including nonprofits, government programs and community organizations throughout the county. The free guide, available in English and Spanish, also sports a beautiful cover photo submitted by a resident as part of a social media-driven contest. In addition to the hard copy handbook, residents can also find information on more than 1,200 agencies and organizations online at www.smc-connect.org

Public Safety

Anti-human trafficking efforts making impacts, seeking grant

The County's Human Trafficking Program continues building partnerships and infrastructure to reduce the crime's prevalence and care for victims in our county. Key connection is the monthly public meeting of the Human Trafficking Initiative, which averages 25-30 attendees each month. Attendees include county agencies, federal and local law enforcement agencies, victim services providers and community- and faith-based organizations.

In December, the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, and StarVista/First Chance (the proposed grantee) agreed to apply for a three-year, \$550,000 federal grant from the Office for Victims of Crime. Solicitation of the grant is expected this month but, if awarded, funds will not be received until October. The grant will provide direct services to any victim of any form of human trafficking identified in San Mateo County.

In 2019, at least eight victims of trafficking were identified by various partners; at least six received services, coordinated by the human trafficking advocacy coordinator. In addition, partner agencies are assisting a very large number of victims identified in San Mateo County in late 2018 during the "Rainbow Bright" investigation by the California Attorney General's Office

Community Services

Fire fuel reduction efforts underway in Junipero Serra Park

To reduce the threat of wildfire to neighboring communities, the Parks Department is currently working with CAL FIRE to treat approximately five acres of vegetation along the boundary of Junipero Serra Park and houses along Terrace Drive in Millbrae. Doing so will expand an existing shaded fuel break and improve defensible space for neighbors. This project, which involves the removal of brush and small-diameter trees, began Dec. 26 and should be finishing shortly. Project planning included assessment of the area for special status species and identification of erosion prevention measures. Creating shaded fuel breaks entails the thinning of native trees, brush and the removal of dead and dying vegetation. Live trees less than 10 inches in diameter within 50 feet of park borders may also be removed. Doing so preserves large-diameter trees while reducing the density of flammable material that can fuel a wildfire's intensity. No healthy trees greater than 10-inches in diameter are being removed as part of this project.