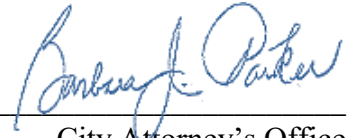


Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR
DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FROM
THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FOR THE
OAKLAND CITY ATTORNEY TO ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY
THROUGH EXPANDED ENFORCEMENT OF THE TENANT
PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, in November 2014, the Oakland City Council enacted the Tenant Protection Ordinance (Oakland Municipal Code [OMC] section 8.22.600 et seq.) to stop harassing behavior by landlords, to encourage landlords to follow the law and uphold their responsibility to provide habitable rental properties, to hold accountable landlords who violate the ordinance, and to provide tenants legal recourse when they are subjected to harassing behavior by landlords; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Oakland residents are renters; and

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent (75%) of respondents in the 2018 City of Oakland Budget Priorities Survey consider homelessness or housing one of the top two issues they would like to see addressed in the City's next budget; and

WHEREAS, sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents in the 2018 City of Oakland Budget Priorities Survey are willing to pay more for rent control enforcement and tenant protection; and

WHEREAS, seventy-one (71%) of respondents in the 2018 City of Oakland Budget Priorities Survey believe addressing housing displacement among people of color to be extremely important or very important; and

WHEREAS, the July 2018 Oakland's Equity Indicators Project revealed deep inequities in housing, with an overall score of 36.8 on a spectrum of 0 (total inequity) to 100 (total equity); and

WHEREAS, African American, Latino, Asian and other people of color in Oakland disproportionately rent, are rent burdened, live in overcrowded conditions, are homeless, and receive eviction notices; and

WHEREAS, Oakland has one of the highest regional concentrations for hard-to-reach populations, with 1 in 5 residents who do not speak English at home and 1 in 4 who are below 150% poverty level; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent UCSF study, African American residents are three times overrepresented amongst Oakland's homeless population; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council recognizes that displacement of tenants is a major and critical concern and the Council is interested in establishing and implementing laws and policies that will help to maintain the ability of people in all income categories to live in our fabulous city; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognized the need for strong City Attorney enforcement of the Tenant Protection Ordinance when it was first enacted (OMC section 8.22.670(A)(2)), and that need remains as great as ever; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency officials declared that “in a public health emergency of this magnitude, we are only as healthy as those who are most vulnerable and insecure,” and underscored “the importance of robust emergency measures to ensure housing stability for low-income individuals and people experiencing or in danger of homelessness”; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the severe public health and safety consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oakland City Council ordered an emergency eviction moratorium on March 27, 2020 to “prevent displacement, reduce transmission of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and promote the stability and the health and safety of residents” during the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney and non-profit legal organizations have identified a disturbing rise in landlords resorting to illegal and dangerous “self-help” eviction methods, such as lockouts and utility shutoffs, during the eviction moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney is committed to enforcing tenant rights under the Tenant Protection Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland adopted OMC section 2.29.171 directing the City of Oakland to intentionally integrate, on a Citywide basis, the principle of “fair and just” in all the City does to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Race and Equity was a partner in the City Attorney's San Francisco Foundation Equity Grant application and is assisting the City Attorney with ways to further align her housing work to racial equity principles; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Foundation is committed to a bold equity agenda that advances greater racial and economic inclusion for everyone in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Foundation has committed \$100,000.00 to the City Attorney to support preventing the displacement of low-income communities of color and the preservation of affordable units in Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds will be deposited in a project designated for the City Attorney's use, namely Project No. 1004867; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator or her designee hereby is authorized to accept and appropriate grant funds from the San Francisco Foundation in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be used by the Oakland City Attorney to support preventing the displacement of low-income communities of color and the preservation of affordable units through enforcement of the Tenant Protection Ordinance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the \$100,000.00 in grant funds shall be deposited in a project designated for the City Attorney's use namely Project No. 1004867; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Attorney and the City Council acknowledge and express the City's deep gratitude to the San Francisco Foundation for the Foundation's vision and support for tenants and further, specifically thank Fred Blackwell, the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer and Demetrius Burnett, the Foundation's Program Officer, Anchoring Communities, for their support and vision.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR,
THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the
Council of the City of Oakland, California