

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND WITH THE OAKLAND FUND FOR PUBLIC INNOVATION (OFPI) AND/OR ITS FISCAL AGENT TO ALLOW THE CITY AND OFPI TO CONTINUE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY ON PROJECTS TO ADDRESS THE CITY'S MOST CRITICAL NEEDS AND TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THOSE PROJECTS FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM, WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO ADDITIONAL THREE-YEAR TERMS SUBJECT TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL

WHEREAS, the Oakland Fund for Public Innovation (OFPI) is an organization that was established in 2017 with a mission of improving the prosperity, safety and quality of life for all Oaklanders by promoting philanthropy and fostering partnerships between the City of Oakland and the philanthropic community to develop strategic and innovative approaches to addressing the City's most complex problems, and to test bold ideas with the goal of affecting positive change for Oaklanders; and

WHEREAS, OFPI was created to advance the approach outlined in the Resilient Oakland Playbook, a strategy document developed to help the City of Oakland tackle systemic and structural challenges with projects that build a more trustworthy and responsive government, allow Oaklanders to stay rooted and thrive in our city, and create a more vibrant and connected Oakland for all who live, work and play here; and

WHEREAS, OFPI has a fiscal sponsor that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help OFPI achieve its charitable goals; and

WHEREAS, OFPI's current fiscal sponsor is the New Venture Fund, which is a 501(3)(c) public charity that is overseen by an independent board of directors with extensive experience in philanthropy and nonprofit management; and

WHEREAS, OFPI does and will continue to comply with all applicable reporting and disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act and the Oakland Campaign Reform Act to ensure full transparency and foster public trust in its charitable programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, OFPI projects have included the Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund, Civic Design Lab, Paint the Town, workforce development, and the Cabin Community program; and

WHEREAS, OFPI launched its most recent project, the Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund, on March 20, 2020 to help Oakland’s most vulnerable community members including, but not limited to, seniors, children, people experiencing homelessness, first responders, and local businesses, by providing rapid financial assistance to assuage the impact of the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, OFPI raised more than \$5.7 million in three months from private donations to its COVID-19 Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, with guidance from City staff and community stakeholders, OFPI was able to disburse all \$5.7 million+ to individuals, businesses and more than 50 community-based nonprofit organizations providing coronavirus relief within the same three-month timeframe; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the funds disbursed were used to provide direct financial assistance to the most vulnerable Oakland residents, including extremely low-income community members, community members experiencing housing instability, populations not eligible for government assistance due to their immigration status, and people of color; and

WHEREAS, the funds donated to the Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund enabled the City to open some of the first community-based COVID-19 testing sites in the Bay Area and conduct over twenty-five thousand free coronavirus tests for first responders, essential workers and the broader Oakland community; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of City staff, OFPI provided 185 grants in the amount of \$5,000 each to extremely low-income small business owners to cover operating expenses such as payroll and rent; and

WHEREAS, OFPI would like to continue to work collaboratively with the City Oakland and its employees to develop strategic and innovative approaches to addressing complex City issues and to raise funds to address the most pressing needs of the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, even as elected leadership changes, OFPI will remain an independent and nonpartisan resource to help elected leaders focus on goals that promote the wellbeing of Oaklanders; and

WHEREAS, OFPI is similar to Public Education Funds, like the Marcus Foster Education Fund or Oakland Public Education Fund, as well as city funds in many other major cities including, London, Los Angeles, New York City, and Philadelphia, which have similar successful partnerships between local government and private non-profit fundraising organizations for the purpose of achieving public interest goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland would benefit greatly from a partnership with OFPI because OPFI can bridge the gap between the City and private donors interested in supporting programs, activities and projects designed to bring positive change to the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, OFPI will continue to maintain on its publicly accessible website transparent, comprehensive reports on its fundraising efforts and on all programs, activities and projects that

were developed and/or supported through its partnership with the City, as well as provide reports to the Oakland City Council whenever requested; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is authorized to enter into a memorandum of understanding on behalf of the City of Oakland with OFPI and/or its fiscal agent for the purpose of creating a non-exclusive partnership between the City of Oakland and OFPI in which City staff will work collaboratively with OPFI on projects to address the most pressing needs of the City and its residents, and to raise funds to support said projects, for a three-year term, with the option to renew for two additional three-year terms subject to City Council approval; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That City Council's approval of the memorandum of understanding between the City of Oakland and OFPI is conditioned on OFPI's agreement to maintain on its publicly accessible website transparent and comprehensive reports on its fundraising efforts and on all programs, activities and projects that were developed and/or supported through its partnership with the City, as well as provide project-specific reports to the Oakland City Council whenever requested and general reports whenever requested up to twice a year; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That prior to execution, the memorandum of understanding shall be reviewed and approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney and executed copies the memorandum of understanding shall be filed with the City Clerk.

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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