



CITY OF OAKLAND

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2021
TO: City Council and Members of the Public
FROM: Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, District 2
SUBJECT: **Chinatown Business Development And Safety Grant**

Dear City Council Colleagues and Members of the Public,

I respectfully request the Council adopt the following: A Resolution Awarding A Grant In The Amount Of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) To The Oakland Chinatown Chamber Of Commerce (“Chinatown COC”) For Business Development And Public Safety Including Lighting, Facade Improvements And Repair And Other Small Business Development And Safety Needs As Determined By The Chinatown COC.

A previous resolution awarding \$75,000 to the Chinatown COC for installation of security cameras was presented to the Public Works Committee on February 11, 2020, which forwarded the resolution to the full Council for consideration at that time. Prior to the full Council’s consideration, the security camera project was reviewed by the Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission, which determined that there were privacy concerns with the proposal. The Chinatown COC elected to pursue private funding for that project, which freed up \$75,000 originally allocated for that project for other uses in the community.

The economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic caused a severe downturn in the Oakland Chinatown economy, similar to other small business corridors. Anti-Asian national rhetoric and increases in public safety incidents negatively affected the Chinatown community. Many businesses closed down and many continue to struggle to stay afloat due to the ongoing uncertainty and other challenges. Through this grant, the Chinatown COC may support Chinatown merchants with reopening, including lighting, facade improvements and repair, and other business development and safety needs. Please join me in supporting our immigrant, mom and pop businesses in Oakland Chinatown.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact Miya Saika Chen, Chief of Staff, Office of Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, at mchen@oaklandca.gov.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Fortunato Bas
Council President, District 2