



MEMO



TO:	Honorable Mayor & City Council	FROM:	Nikki Fortunato Bas
	Members of the Public		Council President, District 2
SUBJECT:	Corridor Safety Ambassadors Grants	DATE:	October 12, 2023

Last June, my Budget Team and I added \$1 million per year to the biennial budget to support community ambassadors and safety measures in our commercial corridors. We did so at the request of the business community, including a coalition consisting of local retailers and restaurants, large employers, developers, business improvement districts, the Metro Chamber of Commerce, and others.

I'm proud to co-sponsor the Economic & Workforce Development Department's (EWDD) proposal to focus the first year of these funds in high priority commercial corridors with the highest levels of crime, employment, and tax revenue and to ensure equity given how BIPOC communities and businesses are disproportionately impacted by current crime trends.

I appreciate that District 2 neighborhoods will be included in the Downtown grant. I will continue to work with other D2 commercial corridors on neighborhood specific safety measures. In addition, my direct community grant to Restore Oakland will support organizing small business corridors without a merchant's organization to make business and corridor improvements in collaboration with our City departments.

In order to build on past and existing work of EWDD and other departments to support safe, healthy and thriving businesses, I fully **support a long-term holistic Corridor Safety program citywide**. Therefore, I **propose an amendment to the resolution for Corridor Safety Ambassadors Grants**, which would add the following recital as the last Whereas clause and before the first Resolved clause:

WHEREAS, Economic and Workforce Development Department Staff will continue to develop a comprehensive, citywide Corridor Safety and Management program to build capacity for long-term service delivery, to strengthen and revitalize neighborhoods without displacement, and to leverage existing City resources and support for implementation in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The initiative is modeled after successful, long-term strategies in similarly sized cities. Staff will also continue to research and design a long-term holistic Corridor Safety program by leveraging public and private investments, engage a multitude of stakeholder groups and community-based organizations and provide for authentic opportunities to build relationships with, coordinate communications amongst, and respond to the diverse needs of our neighborhood merchant community and its residents; and therefore, now be it

Thank you for your consideration.

Special City Council
October 17, 2023