

Comments from 10/19/2021 Special ARPA Session:

Good Morning Chair Vasquez and honorable Supervisors,

My name is Nolan Sullivan. I am a Vacaville City Council Member and have lived in Vacaville for the last 40 years.

I am calling today to support the allocation methodology presented in Exhibit B and also speak to some of the comments today from several board members about partnerships with cities.

Over the last 6 months a group of elected officials and staff from Vacaville, Fairfield, Vallejo, Suisun, and Benicia have been meeting to discuss a regional approach to homelessness. Homelessness is a very difficult task to address and it is even more complicated because the provision of homeless services is no individual agencies direct charge. The cities, county, state, and federal governments all have responsibilities over certain facets of homeless service provision and in many cases if those agencies don't coordinate. This can cause duplication, wasteful and leaves many needs unmet. My comments today are to invite the county to join the 5 local cities in an attempt to address homelessness regionally with this local government collective.

The group has two primary goals. The first is to establish an Executive Commission on Homelessness modeled on several other area counties that has official elected representation from the Solano County cities and the County Board of Supervisors. This group would work together to address homelessness and its migratory nature across the county and to leverage and coordinate resources.

Second, this group has come up with a draft plan to address navigation services, shelter, and homeless services across the county. We understand that working together to address homelessness will be the most effective path forward and we ask the county to consider a significant regional homeless plan that will be submitted soon. We would like to propose a shared budget and plan where cities, the JPA, non-profits and county all put some resources towards a regional navigation, shelter, and employment plan. This plan will ensure all regional entities have some commitment financially to this plan and formally work together to address homelessness across the region.

At some point in time in the near future, this group will be submitting a sizeable matching resource request to the county to partner with the cities of Fairfield, Vallejo, Suisun, Benicia and Vacaville in creating a regional navigation, employment and shelter plan. We hope there can be some earmark in the ARPA funding to assist in this regional goal.

Lastly, as you heard from Mr. Gardner earlier, Vacaville has really put an enhanced focus on local economic development and creating local living wage jobs. Our Biotech sector is poised for great things. We plan on sizeable investments in the future and would also really appreciate enhanced partnerships through the ARPA process to partner and create significant job growth and economic prosperity across the county. There is a lot of room for unique and big-ticket partnerships that would benefit the region economically.

Thank you for your time. I sincerely appreciate your leadership in the county and wish you each a great afternoon.

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