

May 11, 2020

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Clara  
70 West Heading Street  
San Jose, CA 95110



Re: Board of Supervisors May 12, 2020 meeting: Item 23: Under advisement from May 5, 2020 (Item No. 15): Adopt Board Policy Resolution adding Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual section 4.21 relating to a \$500,000 cap on budget inventory items, and direct the Clerk of the Board to include Policy in Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual. (ID# 101296)”

Dear President Chavez, Vice President Wasserman, and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We write to urge you to recognize the inherent inequity in establishing a uniform budget inventory cap across all County districts, as it is abundantly clear that needs are not distributed evenly across the County. To impose a false framework of equality across the County Districts will only serve to deprive our poorest communities of resources and services they desperately need to survive this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. As the Councilmembers representing the majority of underserved communities in San José, we are acutely aware of the incredible need that these communities are facing in light the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not by chance that each of our council districts lies wholly or partly within County District 2, and that many of our communities of highest need are communities of color. Decades of institutional racism, through discriminatory practices such as redlining, have left lasting impacts that have shaped our neighborhoods today.

These impacts are felt even more acutely in the wake of our COVID-19 crisis. Just yesterday, the Mercury News reported that more than a third of the first one hundred deaths in Santa Clara County occurred in just four ZIP codes on the East Side of San José. Countywide, Latinos are dying from COVID-19 at a much higher rate, and much younger on average, than other ethnic groups. We also see the disproportionate effects of this crisis through our food distribution efforts, where much of the greatest need occurs in these same communities. This current crisis has brought to light the need for an equitable distribution of our limited resources, in which resources are allocated where the need is greatest. We urge the Board of Supervisors to withdraw or reject Item 23, and recognize that an equitable approach to budget inventory is the

only way to ensure that those communities hit hardest by this pandemic will receive the help they need to survive.

Sincerely,

*Sergio Jimenez*

Councilmember, District 2

*Raul Peralez*

Councilmember, District 3

*Magdalena Carrasco*

Councilmember, District 5

*Maya Esparza*

Councilmember, District 7

*Sylvia Arenas*

Councilmember, District 8