SAN FRANCISCO, CA—On Monday afternoon, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton announced a fifth co-sponsor to the proposed ordinance to appropriate $2.7 million from the San Francisco’s budget reserves to restore over 300 classes cut from City College of San Francisco’s spring course offerings. Newly sworn-in District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston joined Supervisors Gordon Mar, Matt Haney, and Sandra Lee Fewer in support, making a total of five co-sponsors for the legislation. The proposed ordinance will need eight co-sponsors to override any mayoral veto.

“The classes were cut without community input and many of these classes serve students who are in need of job and skills training as well as older adults who are looking to acquire new skills,” said Supervisor Walton. “Together, along with Supervisors Fewer, Mar, Haney and now Preston, we are fighting for an immediate solution to save City College’s spring classes that serve our community. I am reaching out to my colleagues in hopes of gaining their support for this important bridge funding for city college.”

“My proposed expansion of the Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF) to include City College will ensure a permanent city investment for the critical workforce and community-serving programs that this supplemental budget ordinance is meant to support,” said Supervisor Gordon Mar. “While we work to secure emergency funds in the short term, we also need to work towards a long term solution.”

“There are structural changes needed to make sure our state better prioritizes and funds public education, including the state-wide Schools & Communities First measure that, if passed by voters in November 2020, will raise billions for public education,” said Supervisor Dean Preston, “but we cannot wait for state funding changes. The City must do everything possible to fight for City College of San Francisco and that includes restoring the Spring/Summer classes through emergency bridge funding.”

“We know that City College is facing a major budget deficit, and unfortunately, some of our most vulnerable populations including our seniors are facing heartbreaking cuts in important, lifelong education classes,” said Supervisor Haney, “This funding allocation is crucial in
bridging the funding gap until we can establish a stable long term plan, and I look forward to working with Supervisor Walton and my colleagues on making this happen.”

“As a graduate of City College, I know firsthand the importance of this institution to the residents of San Francisco,” said Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer. “At this time, people are depending on these classes, and as the Board’s Budget Chair for our $12 billion budget, I know that we can afford this critical investment.”

The proposed legislation will be heard in the Budget Committee early January 2020 before going to the full Board of Supervisors meeting.

A copy of the legislation can be found here: https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4280974&GUID=653B6B52-ECB3-4814-B61B-73E348A5D757&Options=ID|Text|&Search=191261

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