



SHAMANN WALTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

*****SUPERVISOR SHAMANN WALTON INTRODUCES EMERGENCY FAMILY
RELIEF FUND LEGISLATION*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Today, Supervisor Shamann Walton along with Supervisors Hillary Ronen, Norman Yee, Gordon Mar, Matt Haney, Dean Preston, and Ahsha Safai announced legislation to create an Emergency Family Relief Fund for San Francisco residents with children or dependents under 18 years old, who do not qualify for any federal or state stimulus or relief plans during the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented plan will include providing relief for immigrant and undocumented families residing in San Francisco who are experiencing extreme hardships but do not qualify for any other benefits.

COVID-19 has created a threat to the economic stability of San Francisco residents, especially immigrant families who work in restaurants, retail, cleaning and janitorial services, and other service industries that are dependent on unpredictable wages. Among other factors, the citizenship or immigration status of many of these workers may also impact their ability for existing or planned public assistance programs.

“We are working hard at responding in the midst of a crisis to protect all populations in San Francisco and we should not forget to protect our immigrant families and families who are not covered under any proposed relief plan,” said Supervisor Walton, “the City has an obligation to create a safety net providing direct economic relief for families who experience loss of income during this time of crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct economic relief will provide immediate assistance for food, rent, childcare, and any emergency expenses accrued during this tough time.”

The COVID-19 Emergency Family Relief Fund will provide financial assistance of at least \$500 per month for up to 5000 families during the pandemic. Trailing legislation may be introduced if the State of Emergency in San Francisco lasts over four months. The Emergency Family Relief



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Fund will be administered through the Human Rights Commission in partnership with community based organizations who work directly with impacted families. Funds up to \$10 million will be appropriated from the City's reserves to fund the program.

“I represent the Mission and Portola neighborhoods in District 9, which has a large immigrant community including undocumented immigrants who are not getting any support from state or federal benefits,” said Supervisor Ronen, “We believe that our immigrant communities in San Francisco are as deserving as the rest of us for help during this crisis. We will step in strong and loud as a local City and County where our federal leaders have failed to help our immigrant population.”

There are three parts to the legislation that will form the Emergency Family Relief Fund, an emergency ordinance that will take precedence if signed by the Mayor and will last for 60 days, an administrative ordinance that will continue the program once the emergency ordinance expires, and an appropriation ordinance that will appropriate \$10 million from the City's reserves to fund the program.

The legislation will be introduced today at the Board of Supervisors special meeting. Supervisor Walton will be requesting a 30-day waiver so the legislation can be heard at the April 8th, 2020 Budget & Finance Committee, and voted for the first time on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at the full board. The legislation will be voted on a second time by the Board on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 and Mayor London Breed will have 10 days to sign.