



SHAMANN WALTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 9, 2021

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Video of the Press Conference: <https://fb.watch/9O80pmjztU/>

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

*****SUPERVISOR WALTON ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY HUB “THE HUT” IN DISTRICT 10*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Today, Board President Shamann Walton along with community leaders from the Pacific Islander community welcomed the grand opening of the Pacific Islander Community Hub, also known as “The Hut” at Executive Park. The Hut is a collaboration between the City and Pacific Islander-led community groups to address the needs of the Pacific Islander community in San Francisco. The unique needs of the Pacific Islander community were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic and The Hut is committed to investing in programming and funding for COVID-19 recovery initiatives for the Pacific Islander community.

The Pacific Islander community has been in San Francisco for over 100 years and have not had dedicated city-funding resources for their community. According to the [Pacific Islander Demographics Report](#) published by the Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce in the Bay Area, between 2000 and 2017, the Pacific Islander population grew by 27% in California. Pacific Islanders are tremendously diverse and the Census Bureau has identified 19 distinct ethnic communities within the Pacific Islander populations. Almost 1 in 5 Pacific Islanders in California reside in the San Francisco Bay Area with 53% of the Bay Area’s Pacific Islander population living in the counties of San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo.

As a response to the COVID-19 health emergency, the City invested in community-led hubs that provided essential services to the communities most impacted by COVID19. The community hubs offer food, connection to vital services, family relief funds, and employment training and services. Modeled after the Latino Task Force Hub located in the Mission and the Bayview Hub located on 1800 Oakdale Ave, the Hut will be offering job assistance, help with applying to various city and state programs, immigration support, and COVID-19 response including providing food assistance to address food insecurity.

Funding for the Pacific Islander Community Hub was prioritized and secured by the Board of Supervisors in the 2021-2022 budget cycle. It was the first-ever add back for the Pacific Islander community



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championed by Supervisor Walton during the city’s annual budget process which included funding for the Hut by securing the location for program service delivery.

The Bayview Essential Services Hub partners including Bay Area Community Resources (BACR), and Young Community Developers (YCD), will work closely with the Hut to provide support including job assistance services. Additional funding for the Hut services are provided in collaboration with Latino Task Force.

“I am excited to champion the effort from the Board of Supervisors to invest in our Pacific Islander community,” said Board President and District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton. “It is important to invest in a community-led COVID-19 response and recovery plan that ensures its services are culturally competent and appropriate for the community that it serves.”

“As a Pacific Islander leader, this is a celebration and a great milestone,” said SFUSD Board of Education Vice-President Faauga Moliga, the first Pacific Islander elected official in San Francisco. “We’ve been doing this work for a long time. This is a place of service for everyone. Everyone is loved and accepted in this space.”

“I am looking forward to collaborating with the Pacific Islander Community Hut,” said Latino Task Force leader Valerie Tulyer. “I look forward to the service that you’ll bring to this space and to the community. The community will come here and return here because they will trust you with their vulnerabilities and know that you will not judge them for seeking services.”

“This is restoring hope to a community that felt hopeless,” remarked Gaynor Siataga, the Director of the Pacific Islander Community Hut. “We’ve been here for over 100 years and many of us have been providing pro bono services to our community for decades. This has been a long time coming and we will not wait another 100 years to make sure our community is served.”

The Pacific Islander Community Hub is located at 150 Executive Park in Room 2450 and is open for drop in Monday and Fridays from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Appointments are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays by calling 415-240-6720 to schedule.

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