GORDON MAR

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021

Contact:
Daisy Quan, Legislative Aide
daisy.quan@sfgov.org
Cell: (415) 699 - 0036

Board of Supervisors approves funding for “Early College” High School internship program and new fund for small business victims of crime as part of surplus spending plan

Amendments made by Supervisor Gordon Mar to surplus spending plan will create new and expanded programs for students and small businesses

***

San Francisco – One Tuesday, as part of a $125 million spending plan, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved funding allocated by Supervisor Gordon Mar for two new programs to expand high school internships and create a new fund for small businesses that have been victims of crime. The plan directs spending from a one-time surplus for the current budget year resulting from revenue, including property taxes, coming in higher than had been projected when the City budget was approved in October 2020.
Supervisor Mar’s amended the spending ordinance to allocate $3.7 million for new investments in youth and small businesses through new and expanded programs. To support high school youth, $2.7m will help bolster SFUSD’s Early College program during the summer, which is an innovative partnership with City College of San Francisco. High school students will participate in a paid internship combined with enrollment in a Career Technical Education course at City College receiving college credit.

This funding will provide 800 internships in July & August, ranging from 35 to 150 hours, for rising 11th & 12th graders, as well as early intervention to guide some rising 10th graders to the On-Ramp to Postsecondary Success program. The Class of 2021 is predicted to under-enroll in college due to academic, social, and economic losses from the pandemic when compared to the last pre-pandemic Class of 2019. As such, the program will also support a group of targeted June and July graduates to transition from high school to college matriculation via summer coursework and a longer internship, and potentially a job working with youth.

“As a high school parent myself, I’ve seen first hand how challenging the past year of distance learning and canceled extracurricular activities have been, and how little attention, support, and resources have been focused on the needs of our teenagers from school reopening to the community learning hubs initiative,” said Supervisor Mar. We have an opportunity to nurture the talents of older youth as we emerge from this pandemic.”

Supervisor Mar also secured resources for a new $1m Fund for Small Business Victims of Crime as a response to property crime occurring during the pandemic. While overall crime has gone down, small businesses in commercial corridors across the city have been experiencing vandalism, burglaries, arson, and other crimes and the financial aftermath to their business.

In District 4, many of these businesses are small mom-and-pop operations, some of which have been targeted multiple times, many owned by Asian-American immigrants, at a time when the community is experiencing a heightened sense of fear due to violence targeting Asians.
The fund will directly support storefront small businesses with financial relief in the aftermath of a crime to restore the harm done, including the direct costs of property damage as well as capital improvements that enhance security and prevent crime, such as replacement lock, a new security gate, fixing an alarm system, or adding new lighting.

“While we continue to work with law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes, we must respond immediately and provide tangible support to storefront small businesses which have been victims of crimes,” said Supervisor Mar. “We must also invest in their safety and the overall security along the corridor.”

"These are urgent priorities that meet critical needs. For small businesses impacted by property crimes, victims are too often left to foot the bill themselves, without any support. This new fund will finally provide direct, streamlined support to small businesses that were the victims of crimes. " said Supervisor Matt Haney, Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

On top of adding these two initiatives, Supervisor Mar fully supported the proposed budget surplus spending package and plan, which focused on immediate relief and recovery support for those most impacted by the pandemic, including protecting small businesses, preserving arts and culture organizations, supporting youth and families, providing more housing security, and preventing overdoses.

####