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

President Walton and Budget Chair Haney Champion Extension of Emergency Family Relief Fund, Receives \$2 Million to Continue Much Needed Support for Families Struggling During the Pandemic

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - President Walton and Budget Chair Haney secure \$2 million in funding for the 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. The proposal passed unanimously at the Budget and Appropriations committee yesterday, and when fully implemented the program will provide relief for immigrant and undocumented families residing in San Francisco who are experiencing extreme hardships but do not qualify for any other benefits.

“We are continuously working hard to respond in the midst of this pandemic to protect all populations in San Francisco and we will not forget to protect our immigrant families and families who are not covered under any federal or state proposed relief plan.” said President Shamann Walton. “Family Relief resources have already provided basic need support to almost 5,000 SF families and this will allow us to serve thousands more.”

The COVID-19 Emergency Family Relief Fund to date has provided \$1000 to 4916 families and will provide financial assistance to another 1980 families who are already identified on the waitlist at the city’s essential service hub sites. The Emergency Family Relief Fund will be administered through the Office of Economic and Workforce Development -OEWD in partnership with the community based organizations who work directly with impacted families at the city wide hubs. 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.

“No family should be in constant fear of not being able to have food, shelter, and pay their bills during a pandemic. It is crucial that the surplus funds be put directly into the pockets of our residents who are suffering, and address our most urgent priorities for recovery,” said Budget Chair Haney. “This program will help many immigrant families who work in restaurants, retail, cleaning and janitorial services, and other service industries that are dependent on unpredictable wages. Our city's residents need us all to deliver real solutions to help them get through this crisis. That is what we have done here.”

Funding for this program was part of a \$125 million 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. The full spending plan package 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.

The legislation which received unanimous support from the Budget and Appropriations Committee, will be voted on a second time by the Board on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 and Mayor London Breed will have 10 days to sign.

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