

City & County of San Francisco
London N. Breed, Mayor



Office of the City Administrator
Carmen Chu, City Administrator
Jennifer Johnston, Interim Director
Mayor's Office on Disability

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

June 18, 2024

Dear Supervisors,

During the public meeting on May 17, 2024, the Mayor's Disability Council (MDC), heard presentations from these organizations, the Dignity Fund Coalition and SF Senior and Disability Action.

The presentation's summary consisted of background history on valuable and needed services and resources, for older adults, caregivers, and adults with disabilities. The key focus was to address budget cuts to those programs that serve and provide resources to those communities, and the devastating loss of those funding allocations would be for them.

In November 2016, when San Francisco voters approved Proposition I, the Dignity Fund, they wanted to provide the means and opportunity to improve the quality of life for those communities. For the past 4 years, organizations such as these have constantly had to fight to secure those funding allocations for the populations that they serve and provide resources to.

Seniors and adults with disabilities represent around 25% of the population in San Francisco. With the increased cost of living in San Francisco, food and health care costs rising, they already live in poverty. Any budget cuts affecting resources and services for these communities would be detrimental for them.

When considering budget cuts, a suggestion might be to look to alternate revenue resources first, instead of taking the funding from the most vulnerable communities that need the most assistance.

Since the Dignity Fund was created in 2017, it has expanded needed services and supports to older adults and adults with disabilities, including services to communities of color, LGBTQ individuals. Loss of this funding revenue will have a

devastating impact on those populations, resulting in program cuts in accessing available services and resources, with a focus on the City's diverse communities.

The funding could be used for implementing recommendations from the Aging and Disability Affordable Housing Needs Assessment, which would include home modifications and housing subsidies that support those populations in trying to maintain safe housing.

The Council's strongly supports and recommends that you keep the annual Dignity Fund \$3 million allocation in the 2024-2025 budget.

Ensuring the funding will enable them to live with dignity. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Patricia Arack, Member
The Mayor's Disability Council (MDC)

CC: Jennifer Johnston, Interim Director, Mayor's Office on Disability
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