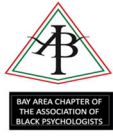


African American Response Circle



July 8, 2021

Via Email and Hand Delivery

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors:

Our coalition writes today to thank you for last week's resolution to declare gun violence a public health emergency following our urgent call to action, as well as to inquire about the status of our \$100 million *Black Community Recovery Plan (Plan)*, submitted to you on June 7. To date, although Supervisor Carson has acknowledged receipt of our June 7 submission, provided as an attachment to the present letter for ease of reference, there has been no action taken by the Board in response to the Plan. Meanwhile, the Black community in Alameda County continues to suffer: a resolution with no corresponding funding will have virtually no impact on the conditions that are killing our people.

Certain elements of the Plan directly address the key drivers of violence in our community and thus support the recent PHE declaration:

- **Culturally responsive mental health services:** \$9.36 million
- **Life coaching/service connectors:** \$4.5 million
- **Impact hubs:** \$5 million

These Plan elements should be funded immediately, pending any further deliberations planned by the Board regarding the allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds. As we have previously indicated, the Board's ability to act is not dependent on resources, but on will. In addition to American Rescue Plan Funds, the County has reserve balances in excess of \$1.5 billion; in addition, there is at least another \$350 million in the Emerald Fund, a fund that the Board of Supervisors can use for any purpose upon a 4/5 vote.

In addition to a lack of funding not being a viable basis for inaction, neither is the lack of infrastructure for the receipt and distribution of Plan funds. The Brotherhood of Elders Network, as the convener of the African American Response Circle, is fully prepared to serve in this capacity.

About the African American Response Circle

The Brotherhood of Elders Network, an intergenerational network of men of African ancestry who foster environments where Black boys and young men are empowered to flourish, established the African American Response Circle in April of 2020 to specifically focus on the disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African American community in Oakland/ Alameda County. The AARC is comprised of approximately 90 Black-led/Black-focused organizations and African American community leaders.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Hodge

African American Response Circle
Brotherhood of Elders Network

