

February XX, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris,

As Congress considers Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 federal funding levels through the annual appropriations process, I respectfully request your support for funding for the following programs that reflect the priorities of the City of Fullerton and its residents.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:** This program provides grants to Fullerton and more than 1,200 other local governments to create neighborhood approaches that improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities for low- and moderate-income residents. Throughout the program's history, communities have leveraged CDBG to fund a variety of activities including housing rehabilitation, business assistance, senior services, and infrastructure. Every \$1 of CDBG leverages another \$4 in other funding, bringing additional vital resources to low-income communities. Maintaining or increasing funding for CDBG is critical to the program's continued success.
- **Homelessness Programs:** For families who have nowhere else to turn, the federal government has provided a safety net to help them avoid homelessness. Especially since the rate of homeless children and youth has increased in recent years, it is especially critical that we maintain and increase funding for homelessness programs. As the City of Fullerton supports initiatives to reduce and prevent homelessness in Orange County, the City supports robust funding for Homeless Assistance Grants in FY 2021.
- **Emergency Solutions Grants:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Solutions Grants provide essential support to homeless individuals and families, and are especially critical for youths, families with children, veterans, victims of domestic violence, and people with mental illness. This program allows states and cities to subgrant out to projects that best meet local needs. Fullerton urges your support for robust funding for this important grant program.
- **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants:** The Department of Transportation's bipartisan, popular, and effective BUILD program awards grants for high priority, innovative transportation projects, all of which are greatly needed. As we seek to invest in our infrastructure, the City supports maintaining funding for the BUILD grant program and increasing its funding and scope wherever possible.
- **Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA):** The INFRA program provides dedicated, discretionary funding for projects that address critical issues facing our nation's highways and bridges. To support these important projects, Fullerton recommends robust funding for INFRA grants in FY 2021.

- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** The FAA is responsible for managing the nation's air traffic control system as well as monitoring the safety of airline operations and aviation products. The Fullerton Airport, whose tower is funded through the FAA's Contract Tower Program, is Orange County's only general aviation airport in Orange County. The Contract Tower Program helps provide air traffic control services to relatively low-activity airports at a cost lower than what the FAA would be able to otherwise provide. To ensure safe and efficient air travel for people and goods, Fullerton supports continued robust funding for the FAA.
- **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program:** The STBG program provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. The STBG program supports such critical initiatives as the Recreational Trails Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Highway Bridge Program. The City urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding for the STBG program in FY 2021.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** LWCF is an essential part of our nation's efforts to help state and local governments acquire, develop, and plan public outdoor areas in the United States. Since 1965, LWCF has supported park lands and recreation facilities by providing nearly \$4 billion through nearly 42,000 grants to state and local governments through its state assistance program. If any cuts were to be implemented, the consequences for public lands, parks, and other recreation areas would be catastrophic. The City supports continued funding for LWCF state assistance grants in FY 2021.
- **Second Chance Act Grants:** Second Chance Act grants offered by the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs support state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities. The City urges Congress to again recognize the value of this program and provide robust funding for the Second Chance Act grants in FY 2021.
- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):** The Department of Justice's COPS Office has provided much needed resources to local law enforcement agencies across the nation. The COPS hiring program, the Office's largest discretionary grant program, offers financial assistance to hire and rehire entry-level career law enforcement officers in order to increase community policing capacities and preserve jobs. The discretionary grants awarded by the COPS Office have significantly enhanced public safety and advanced proven community policing practices. The City urges Congress appropriate at least level funding for this critical public safety program in FY 2021.
- **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program:** The Department of Justice's Byrne JAG Program is the main source of federal assistance to state and local jurisdictions for law enforcement, prosecution, public defense, and crime prevention. This support includes funding for body-worn cameras, bulletproof vests, and up-to-date law enforcement training. The City supports robust funding for the Byrne JAG Program in FY 2021.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency's Firefighters Grants:** The Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) programs help ensure the preparedness of fire departments and other eligible organizations across the country. The AFG program provides federal assistance to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. The SAFER program helps fire departments increase or maintain the number of trained, front line firefighters available to protect life, property, and the environment in their communities. Fullerton believes maintaining at least level funding for each program is critical to these programs' continued success.
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program:** The HOME Program provides grants to cities and other local jurisdictions to create safe, sanitary, and affordable housing in communities nationwide. It is the only federal funding source dedicated solely to the production of affordable housing. HOME also provides critical gap financing in projects developed using the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. Every \$1 of HOME leverages over \$4.26 in other funding. The City requests your support for level or increased funding for the HOME program.

I appreciate the challenges that you and your colleagues face in setting appropriations levels across a multitude of worthy programs and are grateful for your efforts to preserve funding for important programs in a challenging fiscal climate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the City's views.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fitzgerald
Mayor, City of Fullerton

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Representative Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.