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DATE: January 13, 2020

TO: Lisa Bartlett, Chairwomen, Supervisor Fifth District
Michelle Steel, Vice Chair, Supervisor Second District
Andrew Do, Supervisor First District
Donald Wagner, Supervisor Third District
Doug Chaffee, Supervisor Fourth

FROM: Dylan Wright, Director, OC Community Resources 

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON SAFE HOMES FOR OC SENIORS PILOT PROGRAM

This memorandum is being provided in response to your Board's directive to return with a plan for establishing the Safe Homes for OC Seniors Pilot Program. On July 16, 2019 your Board reviewed and approved recommended actions 2, 3 and 4 for Agenda Item #29: Safe Homes for OC Seniors Pilot Program. This program would support a pilot program to help low-income seniors in unincorporated communities of Orange County to access funding for home repairs that would enable them to continue living safely in their own homes. Recommended Action #4 directed OC Community Resources (OCCR) to return to the Board of Supervisors within 120 days to seek approval of a plan to establish an ongoing home rehabilitation program for low-income seniors in unincorporated communities as part of the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, or any other federal or state funding source; consider opportunities to partner with non-profit organizations that may provide additional financial support, in-kind assistance, or otherwise enhance the effectiveness of the County's Safe Homes for OC Seniors program; and consider innovative models adopted by other agencies that are designed to address similar needs.

OCCR submitted a memorandum on September 25, 2019 asking for time to vet additional funding opportunities. OCCR has since applied for Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the next three-year Housing Rehabilitation cycle in the amount of \$200,000 per year starting on July 1, 2020. Preliminary award recommendations are anticipated for CDBG funding on or about March 2020. Final funding awards will be confirmed when the FY 2020-21 Annual Action Plan is approved by the Board of Supervisors in April or May of 2020 subject to funding amounts from HUD for FY 2020-21.

Additionally, OCCR is reviewing any opportunities for funding from the Proposed State 2020-21 budget released on January 10, 2020 that may be eligible for this program.

OCCR will come back to your Board with funding recommendations for implementation of the Safe Homes for OC Seniors Pilot Program once we receive confirmation of award of CDBG funds in spring of 2020 and review of the Proposed State 2020-21 budget.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 714-480-2788 or Julia Bidwell at 714-480-2991.

c: Frank Kim, County Executive Officer