

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 4, 2024

Acceptance of the State Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant Award

In July 2023, under Assembly Bill 102, the State of California appropriated \$18 million to the California Department of Industrial Relations to implement a Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant Program. The grant program, which is administered by the California Labor Commissioner's Office, consists of two annual grant award cycles totaling \$8,550,000 each in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. The Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant is a new funding source to protect workers from wage theft and other exploitative practices in the workplace. Grants are competitively awarded to California "public prosecutors" to develop and implement a wage theft enforcement program— ensuring that labor laws are enforced, violators are prosecuted, and employers are deterred from engaging in unlawful practices such as unpaid overtime and minimum wage violations.

On March 29, 2024, County Counsel submitted its application for the Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant Program. On May 16, 2024, the California Labor Commissioner notified County Counsel that it was awarded \$475,000 for the Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant Program for the funding period of August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025. The grant award is to be used for staff salaries and benefits and allotted annual audit costs.

The grant award will benefit and expand current efforts of the County Counsel's

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

Affirmative Litigation and Consumer Protection Division (ALCP) to protect workers from wage theft and other exploitative practices in the workplace in the County. With the grant, County Counsel's ALCP seeks to increase its investigative and enforcement efforts by, among other things, enhancing its work with the County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs' Office of Labor Equity (OLE), in enforcing the County's Minimum Wage Ordinance and other worker protection laws, strengthening its partnerships with other governmental agencies at the local, State, and federal level, as well as with community-based organizations, and in developing new partners to combat wage theft and exploitation of workers.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Authorize the County Counsel, or designee, to accept the award of \$475,000 for the State Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant Program for the funding period of August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025, and to execute and submit any required documents, including, but not limited to, the grant award agreement.
2. Delegate authority to the County Counsel, or designee, to apply for and accept any grant award from the State Workers' Rights Enforcement Grant Program for 2025-2026 (Year 2), up to a maximum amount of \$750,000, and to execute and submit any grant award agreement and related documents, subject to County Counsel providing advance written notice to the Board of Supervisors before accepting the Year 2 grant award.

#

(CT)