FINAL CORRESPONDENCE

Description of Attached: Correspondence received after publishing the Agenda.

For the Meeting of: Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item: Discussion Item 31

31. Adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 Operating Budget and 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program (Noticed 06/03/2022)

File ID: 2022-01128

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution approving the FY2022/23 Operating Budget and 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Contact: Howard Chan, City Manager, (916) 808-7488, hchan@cityofsacramento.org,
Office of the City Manager, Emily Combs, Director of Finance, (916) 808-5574, eacombs@cityofsacramento.org, Department of Finance
Council Members,

Attached is my written statement in support of Agenda Item 31.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

Gunner Johnson (he, him, his)
Reentry Manager
Insight Garden Program

(503) 310-0580

Our storytelling videos: Reenter | Restore | Reimagine
June 14, 2022

RE: Agenda Item #31

To:  
Mayor Darrell Steinberg - Mayor  
Vice Mayor Angelique Ashby  
Council Member Sean Loloee  
Council Member Jeff Harris  
Council Member Katie Valenzuela  
Council Member Jay Schenirer  
Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra  
Council Member Rick Jennings, II  
Council Member Mai Vang

Dear Mayor Steinberg and City Council Members,

My name is Joshua Gunner Johnson and I currently work as the Reentry Manager and Program Manager at Mule Creek State Prison for the Insight Garden Program (IGP). IGP provides innovative programing within 10 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities. Our goal is to teach gardening and landscaping skills through the design, installation, and maintenance of a prison garden, while recognizing our interconnectedness to one another and to the natural world. Our curriculum is based on this connection, calling upon the many ways we are all dependent on one another, the ways we affect one another, and the ways we can improve and deepen this connection to create better lives for ourselves, our families and our communities. IGP has been offering programming within the CDCR for 20 years and in the past 3 years we have expanded to support our participants with pre-release and post-release reentry support.

IGP has been working with a team of local groups who are developing the Oki Park Open Space project. The collaboration of local organizations has been actively engaging with the local community to develop a concept design of what the Oki Park space could look like. IGP has been involved with community engagement on several occasions and has received positive support from the surrounding community who support the development of the vacant space at Oki Park. The local residents have contributed to the design of a multi-use space that would strengthen the sense of community and provide for an interactive learning opportunity for engaged community members.

Based on my experience facilitating IGP’s innovative curriculum and supporting IGP alumni in reentry, I strongly support the development of the Oki Park Open Space project as a way to expand support for a traditionally underserved community.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Gunner Johnson

Joshua Gunner Johnson  
Reentry Manager & Program Manager, MCSP  
Insight Garden Program  
(503) 310-0580  
gunner@insightgardenprogram.org
To whom it may concern:

Please see our letter of support for the development of Oki park into a green, community space that can be utilized by the residents of the area and can also serve as a workforce development site. We are happy to partner with the City of Sacramento on this project and look forward to your response.

Many thanks--Amanda Berger

Amanda Berger
Director, Community Partnerships
Insight Garden Program
(510) 599-8188

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June 14, 2022

To:
Mayor Darrell Steinberg - Mayor
Vice Mayor Angelique Ashby
Council Member Sean Loloee
Council Member Jeff Harris
Council Member Katie Valenzuela
Council Member Jay Schenirer
Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra
Council Member Rick Jennings, II
Council Member Mai Vang

Dear Mayor Steinberg and City Council Members,

My name is Amanda Berger and I am the director of Community Partnerships at Insight Garden Program. We are a California-based nonprofit that works with currently incarcerated people to co-design and maintain drought-tolerant, native plant, and permaculture gardens inside ten California state prisons (three are in the SAC area).

We also work with people coming out of prison - offering peer mentorship and a holistic approach to reentry support. Through our transformative program, participants are empowered to become food justice leaders, environmental stewards, urban gardeners, and role models within their community.

We have been working with a team of local groups on the Oki Park Open Space project for the past year. We’ve done a lot of outreach to the local community and we heard directly from residents that the majority (roughly 75% of those we connect with) have a strong desire to support the community’s most vulnerable populations which includes people impacted by incarceration, immigrants and asylum seekers, and at-risk youth.

A greater vision of the space is the intentional design of programs that will support our vulnerable community members. We envision workforce training throughout the design and build of the space, specialized training to provide ongoing maintenance to tend to the native grasslands, and potential employment opportunities through the collaboration with NorCal Resist on the urban farm.

Residents are eager to connect with each other and cultivate a multi-use space that strengthens the sense of community. We are also excited about this project being a model for other unused
utility corridors throughout the city. There is huge support from the neighborhood, and we hope that this funding will be considered so that we can begin the next phases of this project.

Insight Garden staff living in the Sacramento community are ready to work in partnership with the city to create workforce development programs in OKI Park that will uplift the community and train, local residents, in landscaping, conservation, and permaculture farming.

Should you need additional information, please contact me at Amanda@insightgardenprogram.org.

Many thanks,

Amanda Berger, Insight Garden Program Director of Community Partnerships
June 14, 2022

Mayor Steinberg and City Council Members,

My name is Andrew Winn and I am the executive director of Insight Garden Program. We are a California-based nonprofit that works with currently incarcerated people to co-design and maintain drought tolerant, native plant, and permaculture gardens inside of California state prisons. We also work with people coming out of prison - offering peer mentorship and a holistic approach to reentry support. Through our transformative program, participants are empowered to become food justice leaders, environmental stewards, urban gardeners, and role models within their community.

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Sincerely,
Andrew Winn
life from the inside out”

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Respectfully,

Gunner Johnson
Joshua Gunner Johnson
Reentry Manager & Program Manager, MCSP
Insight Garden Program
(503) 310-0580
gunner@insightgardenprogram.org
Dear Mayor Steinberg and City Council Members,

My name is Karen Hsueh (District 4) and I am the Deputy Director of Insight Garden Program. We are a California-based nonprofit that works with currently incarcerated people to co-design and maintain drought tolerant, native plant, and permaculture gardens inside of California state prisons. We also work with people coming out of prison - offering peer mentorship and a holistic approach to reentry support. Through our transformative program, participants are empowered to become food justice leaders, environmental stewards, urban gardeners, and role models within their community.

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Sincerely,
Karen Hsueh