

From: [MegaBlack SF](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#); [Pelham, Leeann \(ETH\)](#); [Canning, Michael \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Behested Payment letter from MegaBlack SF
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:10:46 PM
Attachments: [Final Signature File 08.11.2022.pdf](#)

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Please find attached a letter from the MegaBlack SF Collective. The 100 plus signatures were gathered in the last 24 hours. Many of the participants in the MegaBlack collaborative would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Ethics commission about our concerns, which include outreach and education strategies, as well as items outlined in the attached document.

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MegaBlack SF
www.megablacksf.org

Want to get updates on all things MegaBlack? [Sign-up here!](#)

Date: August 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Concerns re: Behested Payment Ordinance Proposal

We represent the MegaBlack SF Community—each part of the Black/African-American community. The MegaBlack SF Community is not a monolith; we are megalith, representing a diverse group of opinions, perspectives, values, and lived experiences. We are, however, unapologetically unified in respect to this letter and its demands.

We the undersigned stand in full support of Dr. Director Davis's letter on July 27, 2022 addressing the creation of behested payment laws that disproportionately impact all Black and underserved communities. Consequently, what ends up being criminalized are our communities, relationships, partnerships, and our community-based approaches.

Racism and Implicit Bias in Action

This feverish response to an individual's action has put in motion an avalanche of laws and policy—each stemming from deep-rooted racism and the belief that if one Black person has engaged unethically, it is an indictment against all Blacks. Research and our own lived experiences have proven time and again that society is prone to criminalizing Black people, and these laws regarding behested payments are no exception. We want to know: If laws and departments are being created now as a response to the misdeeds of a Black man, what laws and departments have been created in response to the misdeeds of white and non-Black leaders?

Dr. Director Davis also noted how calls for oversight act as a “dog whistle,” implying the shortcomings of Black leadership. We know these are coded attempts to remain discreet about the underlying racism at work. This is an indictment of Black leaders, as well as the way we work in relationship with one another. Our lifelong experiences with codeswitching have primed us to watch for the underlying messages being insinuated, including the fact that Black leadership and networking that would benefit the Black community has now become synonymous with corruption that needs to be controlled.

Impact on Community Work

The current behested payment ordinance proposal compounds this already existing systemic racism in ways that are now unconscionable. These laws sever the main artery that leads to our ability to cultivate continued and sustainable resources for communities most in need.

Consider the immediate and direct connection between government funding and unrestricted funds. In order to serve the community during the government contract certification process, a non-profit must wait months, sometimes over a year, for the certification and invoicing to

complete and get funds to the agency. Let us be clear what this means: agencies—those serving the most in-need communities, depending on the size of their city contract—are expected to have hundreds of thousands of usable funds upfront. These Black-led organizations, already working upstream against the dreadful strain of racism, must also carry the workload to keep all finance and program compliances, all while fronting the operating costs to do so until the often-bogged down government process catches up many months later.

Consider further this vicious cycle and the impact of these current laws: Large corporations and philanthropic organizations are already hesitant to partner with smaller organizations, as they consider it to be a risky undertaking to invest in an organization that has no readily available unrestricted funding to already show. Now, nonprofits are expected to somehow increase their unrestricted funds without meaningful connections with government partners. Black communities would have to become a disconnected group of individuated entities; we would have to keep our knowledge to ourselves, and not work in community despite calling ourselves a community-based organization. This bootstraps mentality fails individuals, and it will certainly fail all the community safety nets that are currently in place.

Similar to the problematic aspect of generational wealth, philanthropic choices will look like the privileged face of power and the marginalized voice of the people will be all the more unrepresented. The outcome of this spiraling effect is inevitable:

*Those who have will get more.
Those who don't won't get any!*

Impact on Black Communities

Unless our complaint is taken seriously and an alternate course is assumed, the Black community will not be able to sustain services and viability to our most vulnerable children, elders, communities, and families.

It is frightening to see the insidious impact of behested payment laws on Black communities, even after their short period of inception. To now expect the one strength that Black and other marginalized communities have exalted for generations—namely, our shared networking and community partnerships—to be viewed as criminal, is unconscionable! Not one financial goal could be met without our ability to collaborate with all stakeholders and community partners.

Additionally, the threat of viewing a relational network between government and community as financial impropriety is desperately traumatizing to the Black community, leading to devastating psychological impacts. In a city that prides itself on restorative justice principles, it is appalling to see how restorative practices are replaced by efforts to dismantle connectedness. Punitive

threats are now being levied toward those potential partnerships, and construction of governmental policies are being created to ensure those partnerships do not continue to exist.

Furthermore, the impact on Black leaders affects everyone at large. Being in leadership requires a sense of empowerment and utilizing the ability to leverage community strengths, and this proposed ordinance diminishes the ability to do just that. This then minimizes Black leaders' effectiveness across the board, from the highest elected office to philanthropic leaders to nonprofit leaders, as the effects of demoralization trickle down and up. The impact then falls on the most vulnerable individuals when leadership feels discouraged and burnt out, especially as people turn to their leaders for optimism and a strengthened resolve.

To impute dishonesty and distrust, whether intentionally or unintentionally, produces the same outcome. Lack of intent will not inoculate our city from the devastating impact of this law on Black communities.

Call to Action

In an effort to right this egregious wrong, the MegaBlack SF community and its allies call for the following:

1. Immediate release of the data and statistics to answer the question: What laws and departments have been created in response to the misdeeds of white and non-Black leaders and government officials?
2. Official city-recognized acknowledgement from the Ethics Commission and the Board of Supervisors that there is implicit bias in action in these proposed laws, and that there is a stronger negative impact on Black communities that must be righted.
3. The Ethics Commission works with Black community leaders to create an ordinance that is truly equitable to all our communities.

In summary:

To allow generations of social support that are integral to the health and connection between Black individuals, to then become synonymous with criminal behavior, is criminal in itself!

To allow unchecked biases to infuse fear of Black leadership, whether intentionally or unintentionally, is to actively effort toward the dismantling of all that keeps our city strong.

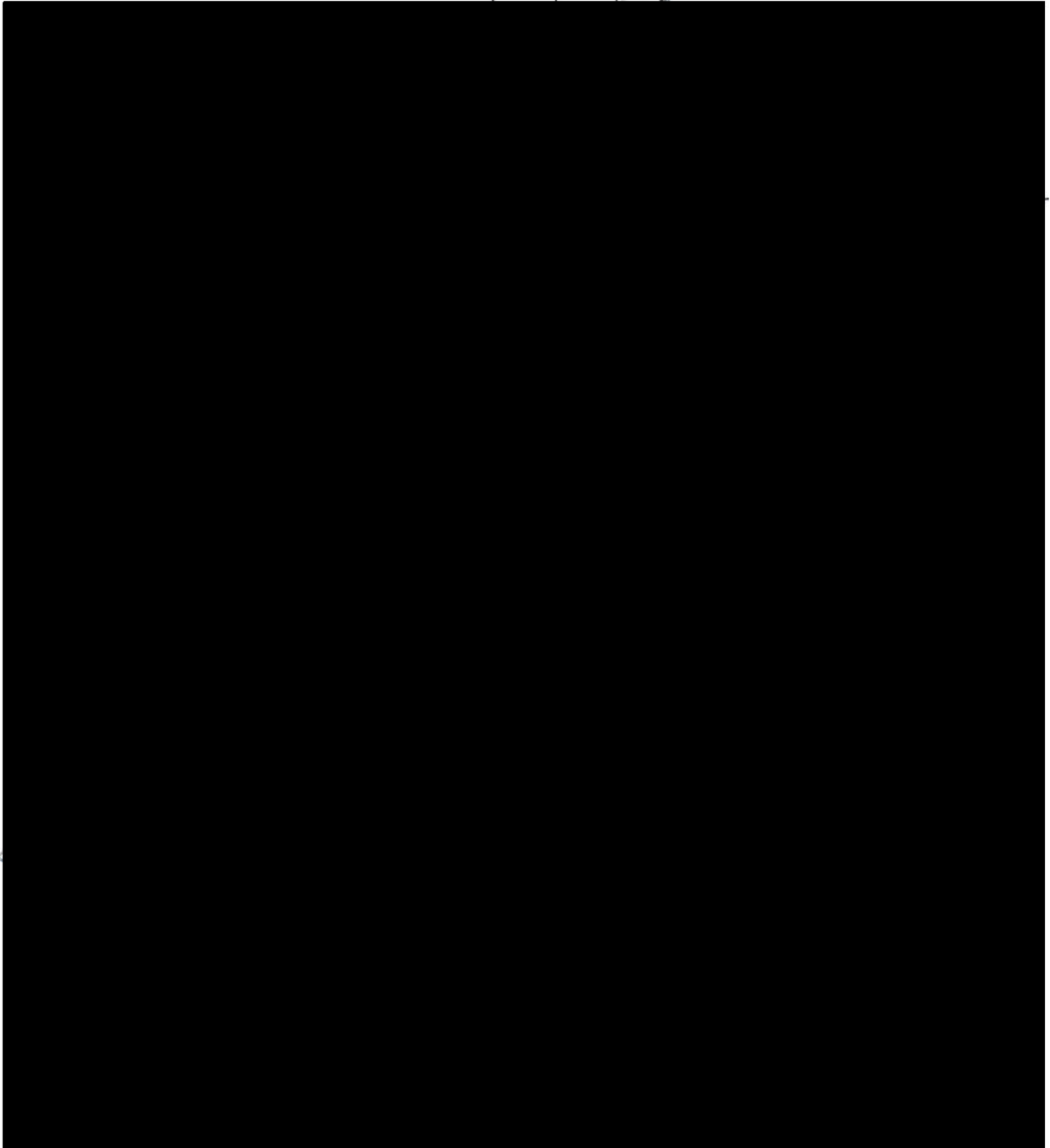
We URGE all San Franciscans to consider the burdens and devastating impact that these proposed laws will place on Black leadership in San Francisco, and on nonprofit organizations that are for and led by Black individuals and communities.

SIGNATURE PAGE

We the undersigned support the above letter from the MegaBlack SF community regarding the proposed behested payment laws, and are in agreement with the action items listed.

Name

Affiliation(s)



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| <u>Name</u> | <u>Affiliation(s)</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Dr. April Y. Silas | MegaBlack SF, Homeless Children's Network |
| Dr. Hazel Benigno | Homeless Children's Network, Filipino Mental Health Initiative |
| Stella Li | Homeless Children's Network |
| Daniella Severs | Homeless Children's Network |
| Callisyn Zielenski | Homeless Children's Network |
| Jyn Rose Mata Aguas | Homeless Children's Network |
| Matthew Ivey | Homeless Children's Network |
| Piper Riley | Homeless Children's Network |
| Melissa Weik | Homeless Children's Network |
| Cecilia Carey | Homeless Children's Network |
| Jamie Yukimoto | Homeless Children's Network |
| Shawneshia Hopver | Homeless Children's Network |
| Joy O. Iredia | Homeless Children's Network |
| D'Janea Bolton | Homeless Children's Network |
| Robert Dale Banks | San Francisco Resident |
| Queen Vanessa Banks | San Francisco Resident |
| Antionay T. Banks | San Francisco Resident |
| Alayia H. Banks | San Francisco Resident |
| Dishon R. Banks | San Francisco Resident |
| Clarence Lumpsy- | San Francisco Resident |
| Alisha Banks Milner | San Francisco Resident |
| Felicia Williams | San Francisco Resident |
| Shayla Carson | San Francisco Resident |
| JaRaya Martin | San Francisco Resident |
| Myeshia B. Williams | San Francisco Resident |
| Reynaldo Springfield Talley | San Francisco Resident |
| Destin-G. Wong | San Francisco Resident |
| Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scott | Faith Based Organization |
| Virginia Marshall | San Francisco Resident |
| Renee Underwood | San Francisco Resident |

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| Name | Affiliation(s) |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Lisa Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Tosca Comvalius</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Efrem Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Mario Benton</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Christiana Remington</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Joshua Smith</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Angela Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Deborrah Morgan</u> | <u>Soul Of Pride</u> |
| <u>Christine Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Brittany Bellamy</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Marcus Saucedo</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Renee Hamler</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Tanesha Hamler</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Indigo Porter</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Jelisa Flores</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Christine Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Christina Horne</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Jequan. Ellis</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Jametria May</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |

| Name | Affiliation(s) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Darnell McDaniel</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Dontae McDaniel</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Ari Curry</u> | <u>Flex Productions</u> |
| <u>Joshua Smith</u> | <u>SF Pride</u> |
| <u>Karine Morjoun</u> | <u>Labor</u> |
| <u>Linda Martley-Jordan</u> | <u>BWOPA</u> |
| <u>Andre Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Lawrence Shine</u> | <u>Bayard Rustin</u> |
| <u>Anietie Ekanem</u> | <u>One Bayview</u> |
| <u>Pamela Connie</u> | <u>SF Social Worker</u> |
| <u>Andrea Lego</u> | <u>SF Social Worker</u> |
| <u>Laquisha Austin</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Jimmy McDaniel</u> | <u>Bayard Rustin</u> |
| <u>Regina Warren</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Venita Warren</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>David Lanier</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Cedric Horne</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Christina Horne</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Alisha Hayne</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |

| Name | Affiliation(s) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Jon Flores</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Anthony Warren</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Amati Atkins</u> | <u>Family Over Everything</u> |
| <u>Marlo Williams</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>Lorenzo Austin</u> | <u>Family Over Everthing</u> |
| <u>Kendu Smith</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Herbert Williams Jr.</u> | <u>Military</u> |
| <u>Regina Liotter</u> | <u>Probation</u> |
| <u>Drench Saucedo</u> | <u>Senior group</u> |
| <u>Red Mixon</u> | <u>Senior Group</u> |
| <u>Amanda Connie</u> | <u>Student</u> |
| <u>Octavia McDaniel</u> | <u>Community Activist</u> |
| <u>Jamar Jasper</u> | <u>SF Resident</u> |
| <u>Darnell Green</u> | <u>Soul of Pride</u> |
| <u>LaMar Chaney</u> | <u>Boxing Association</u> |
| <u>Brittany Chaney</u> | <u>Health Care Worker</u> |
| <u>James Morgan</u> | <u>Deacon</u> |
| <u>Xandria Brown</u> | <u>Teacher</u> |
| <u>Tamara Williams</u> | <u>Social Work</u> |

SIGNATURE PAGE

In response to the proposed ordinance, the MegaBlack SF community and its allies have issued a letter arguing against the proposal as it is, with some specific calls to action to make it more equitable for the Black community. The MegaBlack letter also references an earlier letter written by Dr. Sheryl Davis of the Human Rights Commission, which is also attached for your reference.

S.F. voters may weigh in on 'behested payments' again

We the undersigned support the above letter from the MegaBlack SF community regarding the proposed behested payment laws, and are in agreement with the action items listed.

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[S.F. voters may weigh in on 'behested payments' again](#)

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| Name | Affiliation(s) |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Michael St. Vincent | LinkedIn |
| Jordan Stanley | LinkedIn |
| Veronica Eves | LinkedIn |
| Sinclair Wright | LinkedIn |
| Donny Evans | LinkedIn |
| Mustafa Silo | LinkedIn |
| Sonya Johnson | LinkedIn |
| Alex Green | LinkedIn |
| Ronald Insular | LinkedIn |
| Xavier Conley | LinkedIn |
| Itsume Mohammad | LinkedIn |
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Signatures procured by Cecilia Carey, HCN 206 475-4353 cecilia@hcnkids.org

From: [Jude Deckenbach](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Behested payment rules and amendments
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 11:58:42 AM

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Good Afternoon,

I'm writing today on behalf of the proposed amendments. As a SF citizen I support legislation that will curtail the pay to play relationships but I believe that this legislation, as originally written, is too broad and its vagueness is confusing. And the necessary compliance is very complex and could result in people and groups just giving up - not even trying to raise money or work on a needed park improvement project - as an example.

Friends groups need all the help we can get w/ working with the City and SFRPD - we need and value assistance, not roadblocks. And while the Jackson Park renovation project hasn't had to press pause, I understand that other park projects have been gravely affected.

I encourage you all to uphold the proposed amendments and let's move forward, working together to improve our beloved city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jude Deckenbach (she/her)
Friends of Jackson Park

Let's Build this Park!

