

# Regular Council Meeting

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## FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF FRESNO  
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### Public Comment Packet

#### ITEM(S)

#### 2-C (ID 24-1164)

Actions pertaining to allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding

[TITLE TRUNCATED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET COVER PAGE]

Contents of Supplement: Public comment email

#### **Supplemental Information:**

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

## Susan Mac

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**From:** Clerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:48 PM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Cc:** Clerk  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 2C - ID 24-1164

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**From:** Jason Scott <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:38 PM  
**To:** Clerk <  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 2C - ID 24-1164

**External Email: Use caution with links and attachments**

Dear Council President Pera and Fresno City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the upcoming agenda item concerning funding for local LGBTQ+ Community-Based Organizations. This funding is crucial for the ongoing efforts to support LGBTQ+ youth and young adults in our community, who face unique challenges that often go unnoticed and underserved.

Research has consistently shown that LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by mental health issues, bullying, and homelessness. According to The Trevor Project, 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, with rates even higher among transgender and nonbinary youth. Additionally, LGBTQ+ young people are more than twice as likely to experience homelessness compared to their non-LGBTQ+ peers, largely due to family rejection, discrimination, and systemic barriers.

By allocating these funds, the City Council will empower organizations like LGBTQ Fresno to expand our youth-centric services, which are designed to address these alarming statistics. Our programs provide vital resources such as mental health support and safe spaces where LGBTQ+ youth can find acceptance and community. With additional funding, we can extend our outreach, develop new initiatives tailored to the specific needs of our youth, and ensure that no young person is left without the support they need to thrive.

The City Council's commitment to this cause will send a powerful message that Fresno values and protects its LGBTQ+ residents, especially its youth.

I urge you to support this agenda item and help us continue the vital work of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. Together, we can make Fresno a safer, more welcoming place for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

**Jason Scott**

Pronouns: He/Him ([Here's why!](#))

Executive Director

LGBT Community Network | LGBTQ Fresno |

**From:**  
**To:** [Clerk Agendas](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-29 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 5:24:56 PM

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**External Email: Use caution with links and attachments**

[City of Fresno](#)

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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-29 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Adam Chang submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-29 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-C. ID 24-1164 Actions pertaining to allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding: 1. Approve the recommendation of seven service proposals allocating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) totaling \$100,000 (Bid File 12402305) to the following organizations: (1) Trans-e-motion \$10,000; (2) BlaQueer Fresno \$20,000; (3) Casita Feliz \$13,500; (4) Dulce Upfront Labs \$13,600; (5) South Tower Land Trust \$25,000; (6) LGBTQ Fresno \$12,740; (7) Oasis Legal \$5,160; 2. RESOLUTION - Granting Authority to the City Manager or designee to enter into agreements with Community Based Organizations to provide programs and services funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid in the COVID-19 Recovery Effort.

eComment: Since 2022, Oasis Legal Services has been a direct service provider for low-income LGBTQ+ immigrants in Fresno, serving dozens of new asylum seekers each year. Our clients are forced to flee persecution abroad due to their sexuality, gender, and/or HIV status. They are survivors, contributing members of society, and deserve support from the city they now call home. City funding for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers is a step towards healing and reconciliation, bolstering efforts to ensure that diversity and equity are prioritized. Committing \$100,000 to multiple nonprofit organizations directly serving LGBTQ+ individuals is historic. Oasis Legal and social services ensure the wellness of each of our clients who have been denied basic human rights. However, the recommended funding amount of \$5,160 to Oasis is unconscionably low. While honored to be considered, we request a reassessment, as the nature of our work saves lives and prevents the forced return of individuals who would face extreme anti-LGBTQ+ violence in their countries of origin. Institutional barriers remain high for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking immigration and social services. Community members turn to Oasis as a trusted organization. A delay of funding direct services is a delay to equitable access for those most marginalized. Oasis remains steadfast in advancing the wellness of the LGBTQ+ immigrant

community with the support of Fresno City and its leaders.

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