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CITY OF IRVINE  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

# Memo

To: Oliver Chi, City Manager

From: Larry Agran, City Councilmember *LA*

Date: September 5, 2023

**Subject: Consider Allocation of \$1.5 Million In Available Irvine Recovery Plan Funds Towards One Irvine Program**

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I respectfully ask that the City Council consider redirecting \$1.5 million in available and currently unallocated Irvine Recovery Plan funds towards the One Irvine neighborhood revitalization program.

As you may be aware, the One Irvine program has been a remarkably successful effort deployed by the City aimed at supporting Irvine's older neighborhoods in an effort to spark community-led reinvestment activities. The program is available to owners of qualifying single-family homes and condominiums built in or before 1975. There has been a tremendous amount of community interest in the program, especially among the following two One Irvine program areas.

- **Green Home Grants – Fully Subscribed**
  - Through this program, households are provided up to \$1,500 to support smaller sustainability projects.
  - The program is 100% subscribed, with the City having funded 70 Green Home Grants.
  - There is still interest in the program, with around 5-10 households on the waiting list.
  
- **Home Improvement Loans – Fully Subscribed**
  - Through this program, homeowners can receive a loan of up to \$25,000 for larger-scale repair and sustainability projects (including installation of solar panels). The loans are repaid upon sale or transfer of the property.
  - The program is 100% subscribed, with the City having funded 90 Home Improvement Loans.
  - There is still strong interest and demand for the program, with around 40 homeowners on the current waiting list.

Recently, my office has identified that given changes with the development of our Transit Vision Program, there are available Irvine Recovery Program funds that could be redirected to fund those on the waiting list of the One Irvine neighborhood revitalization program.

Originally, the City allocated \$2.125 million to fund the Transit Vision Program. However, given that the City was able to subsequently work out a funding shift to primarily fund the Transit Vision Program with restricted transportation dollars, the Transit Vision Program will now only need around \$500,000 in Irvine Recovery Plan funds. This will leave \$1.625 million in available funds.

Given that factor, since we do have excess resources, I am requesting that the City Council authorize the allocation of \$1.5 million in available Irvine Recovery Plan funding to bolster our One Irvine neighborhood revitalization program, such that we will be able to fully fund those that are on the waiting list for the Green Home Grant and Home Improvement Loan programs.

Please agendaize this matter for full City Council consideration at our September 12, 2023 meeting.

cc: City Council  
City Clerk  
City Attorney