

May 29, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA INQUIRIES: info@aacasf.com

Phone: (415) 928-5910 x126

Asian American Contractors and Allies Call for Due Process for Small, Local, Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses in PLA Discussions

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, May 25, 2018 – On **Thursday, May 31 at 11:00am**, members and allies of the Asian American Contractors Association (AACA) will hold a press announcement at the steps of San Francisco City Hall to voice their grave concerns about the exclusion of small, local and minority-owned businesses from a legislative process that affects their continued participation in public works contracting.

The Board of Supervisors has hastily arranged to consider a proposed Citywide Project Labor Agreement (“PLA”) ordinance in less than a week, on Election Day, Tuesday, June 5, a day on which San Franciscans are focused on directly electing their new Mayor and weighing in on a host of statewide and local ballot measures.

During the tenure of dearly departed Mayor Ed Lee, the PLA legislation was to be thoroughly vetted in a Board subcommittee with broad participation by a variety of community stakeholders, especially small, local and minority contractors. Inexplicably, however, the Board is slated to hold a vote in less than seven days **to refuse consideration** of the legislation in the Government and Oversight and Audit Committee, circumventing the normal committee process and fast-tracking the legislation to the entire Board.

The Asian American contractor community, during formal and informal conversations, had repeatedly been promised due process and an opportunity to engage publicly, but in the end these have been denied. The legislation is now being barreled through such that Interim Mayor Mark Farrell can sign into law the very legislation he had authored and introduced as a Supervisor, defying the purpose of separation of powers before a new directly-elected Mayor takes office. The community feels strongly that the role of a new directly-elected Mayor, whoever he or she may be, should not be cut out of the PLA legislative process – the Interim Mayor should not be positioned to sign his own fast-tracked brainchild into effect.

AACA asks that Supervisors London Breed, President of the Board of Supervisors; Jane Kim, Chair of the Government Audit and Oversight Committee; and Ahsha Safaí, Chair of the Rules Committee, move consideration of this legislation back into Committee for a full vetting. We ask this to be done in the spirit of promised due process, transparency and good government. These three current members of the Board of Supervisors, two of whom are mayoral candidates, must respect the concerns of small, local, minority and women-owned businesses by doing so.

AACA contends it has been well documented that our small, minority and women-owned businesses continue to face a wide range of challenges, barriers and racism. Historically, many minority-owned (and specifically Chinese-owned) firms were targeted by Unions for harassment and discriminatory practices. Many hard-working Asian American contractors are immigrants providing for their families and employees.

There are many points that AACA feels need further vetting in a fair, deliberative public process. One such point is that under the current draft of PLA legislation, small business owners would be prohibited from working on their own jobs. Owners of the company would simply not be allowed to perform any work on their own jobs or job sites. Furthermore, the PLA purports to support the City's effort to fulfill its local hiring requirements, though there is no real understanding as to how San Francisco's most vulnerable residents primarily benefit. Currently, there are **no stipulations** that the Unions must direct placement to the benefit of the city's most vulnerable residents (in Chinatown, South of Market, Bayview and Sunnyside), and focus on getting them into lucrative list trades (i.e. elevator, plumbing, electrical, etc.) which typically pay \$60 to \$120 per hour.

Attachment: Memorandum from San Francisco Office of the Controller, Risk-Benefit Assessment of a Citywide Project Labor Agreement, March 16, 2016

ABOUT AACA:

The Asian American Contractors Association was established in 1975, to support the Asian construction community in the San Francisco Bay Area. Its mission includes:

- guiding and developing small and growing businesses
- educating the construction community regarding construction-related policies and practices
- helping our members voice their opinions to their elected representatives
- bringing members and non-members together to foster relationship building

###