

From: **Michelle Leonard-Bell**

Date: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 7:34 AM

Subject: Mission Hiring Hall | Redistricting | Communities of Interest

To: VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov <VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov>

Hello –

My name is Michelle Leonard-Bell, and I'm the interim executive director of Mission Hiring Hall, a employment training and placement service provider based in both the Mission District and SoMa.

Mission Hiring Hall started its work in the Mission District in 1971. The Mission neighborhood is bounded by highway 101 to the east, Market Street to the north, Dolores Street to the west, and Cesar Chavez Street to the south.

According to the American Community Survey, the Mission has approximately 58,640 residents with a 34% immigrant population. The Mission's reported race and ethnicity reveal a majority of White residents (57%) with significant Latino (39%) and Asian (14%) communities. 13% of the community is linguistically isolated with significant Spanish and Asian language speaking households. Additionally, 29% of the Mission's residents only have a high school degree or less. The median household income in the Mission is \$83,234 whereas the median household income for San Francisco is over \$112,000.

Significant parts of the community are excluded from Disadvantaged Communities definition despite persistent social and economic concerns.

San Francisco's South of Market Street (SoMa) is served by many organizations such as the SoMa West Community Benefit District, Mid Market Community Benefit District, and SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Heritage District. This community is bound by Market in the northwest, Interstate 80 to the southeast, and highway 101 to the west. Due to being lined by busy highways and surface streets for the Financial District, SoMa bears the region's worst vehicular congestion, related emissions and pollutants.

While parts of SoMa are designated as Disadvantaged Communities, the state mapping excludes significant portions of the community that are also communities of interest with great needs.

According to the American Community Survey, SoMa has approximately 19,180 residents with a 57% immigrant population. SoMa's reported race and ethnicity reveal a plurality of Asian residents (39%) with significant White (38%), Latino (12%), and Black (11%) communities. 21% of the community is linguistically isolated with significant Spanish and Asian language speaking households. Additionally, 34% of SoMa residents have a high school degree or less. The median household income in SoMa is \$43,466 whereas the the median household income for San Francisco is over \$112,000. Only 4% of the housing in this neighborhood are single-family homes. The old housing stock in the area are often Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings that serve the low income and disadvantaged community that is the core of the neighborhood.

Environmental justice and social equity go hand in hand. Thank you for your work to ensure both of these issues are at the forefront of redistricting efforts.

Sincerely,

Michelle Leonard-Bell

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