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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OVERSIGHT OF  
THE MERGER OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT  
UNDER THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

The merger is a fait accompli. It's dismantled a 30 year partnership between the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCI), lower income community residents and the community based non-profits (CBOs) who carried out comprehensive community building programs in accord with community determined priorities and strategies.

This merger was done in the absence of Board of Supervisors oversight, timely Citizens Committee on Community Development review and the informed participation of lower income residents and past and present CDBG funded CBOs.

While OEWD promotes the merger in terms of efficiencies and improved leverage, and there is some merit in that, its primary impact so far appears to be relieving General Fund staff and program obligations at the expense of those formerly funded by CDBG.

The decentralization of program management amongst various agencies weakens the focus on comprehensive problem treatment and community responsiveness that had centered on MOCD. And that will constrain departmental oversight and intra-program coordination while making informed community participation even more difficult.

OEWD points out that other cities administer CDBG funds in a "myriad of ways" but just because that's the way they do it in Denver is not justification for eliminating a proven 30 year community/City development partnership in San Francisco. Working with CBOs, OEWD could have achieved it's objectives by building on rather than replacing that partnership.

The key question is where do we go from here? How does the City, working with lower income communities, now direct and oversee this decentralized program?

OEWD should prepare for Board of Supervisors approval and then implement a cooperative planning process to determine the goals, strategies, priorities and allocation criteria for the revised CDBG program in a timely manner so it becomes the basis for the 2010/11 Request for Proposals (traditionally sent out in November). That process must provide for meaningful CCCD review and full participation of lower income residents and their CBOs.

It is understood that long range direction will be determined through the development of the next five year Consolidated Plan, under the direction of MOH. However, that will not be completed until 2010.