

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA: 6.B.1
AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2018

SUBJECT:

Approval to Use Community Development Funds to Sponsor the "Valley Hackathon" Event, a Competition to Develop Quick Technology Solutions, to be Held on January 26 and January 27, 2018

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0045

On motion of Supervisor Withrow _____, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa _____
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini _____

Noes: Supervisors: None _____

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None _____

Abstaining: Supervisor: None _____

- 1) Approved as recommended
- 2) Denied
- 3) Approved as amended
- 4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:6.B.1
AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2018

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: Yes

SUBJECT:

Approval to Use Community Development Funds to Sponsor the "Valley Hackathon" Event, a Competition to Develop Quick Technology Solutions, to be Held on January 26 and January 27, 2018

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the use of \$500 of Community Development Funds to sponsor the Valley Hackathon held on January 26 and January 27, 2018.
2. Direct the Auditor-Controller to make the necessary budget adjustments per the attached budget journal.

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus County Community Development Fund was established by the Board of Supervisors in Fiscal Year 2007-2008, and has funded a variety of one-time projects benefitting the unincorporated area that demonstrate strong local support and a general public benefit.

On January 26 and January 27, 2018 Valley Hackathon will be hosting a contest where teams of programmers compete to complete a project in a limited amount of time. These contests are known as "hackathons" and contestants are judged on their "hack." In the context of hackathons, the term "hack" does not refer to illegal activities, but rather a quick and well-designed fix to a problem. At hackathons teams of programmers develop unique projects that require software to work. Previously, teams have developed soil sample testing systems, drone controllers, and video games. These teams have 24 hours to create working prototypes that are then presented to judges and an audience the following day. Winning teams are awarded with cash and prizes. Typical contestants are local professional programmers, computer science students from UC Merced, and students from other local institutions.

Valley Hackathon's mission is to "foster and grow a community of technical enthusiasts while raising awareness about the Central Valley's tech ecosystem by hosting events that encourage people to push the bounds of technical innovation." The organization works to fulfill its mission through organizing hackathon events in the community. The events are free for participants and are designed to be fun and competitive for the community.

The hackathon will start on the evening of the 26th and will end on the evening of the 27th. It will be held at ValleyWorx (a co-working space in Modesto) with event organizers expecting approximately 150 people to attend. If approved, the \$500 will be funded from the District 1 Community Development Fund balance.

Stanislaus County has a growing tech sector and a number of large organizations (including the County) which need competent information technology professionals. Hackathons, such as the Valley Hackathon, benefit the community. They sharpen and expand the toolkit of up and coming programmers, showcase the skills of the talented individuals, link capable professionals to businesses and companies looking for technical talent, and connect homegrown ideas and talent together. Growing local hackathons is one key way to reach Bay Area companies who are already expanding out-of-state to cities such as Denver, Austin, and Seattle. A goal is for those employers to look at Modesto and the surrounding area as a good first option before expanding out of state.

POLICY ISSUE:

Board of Supervisors approval is required for the use of Community Development Funds.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If approved, \$500 in District 1 Community Development Fund balance will be used to support the Valley Hackathon. District 1 has a current balance of \$430,690 and the Community Development Fund has a combined balance of \$2,368,227.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action is consistent with the Board's priorities of *Developing a Healthy Economy* and *Promoting First-Rate Learning Opportunities* by supporting an event that helps develop local technology professionals.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The Chief Executive Office oversees the use of community development funds to ensure that they are consistent with the proposed project and the Board's direction.

CONTACT PERSON:

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ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Valley Hackathon Budget Journal

