

Levesque, Jennifer

From: McClatchy, Kathleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:09 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: ItemJ.1.21-003 Support Participatory Budgeting!

Dear Mayor & City Councilmembers,

My name is Kate McClatchy and I live in District 3, 1019 1/2 W. 20th St. here in the City of Merced. I support the Participatory Budgeting (PB) process for spending down \$40,000 of Measure Y local cannabis-tax funds. PB is a democratic process that empowers community residents to decide together how to spend public dollars.

PB is an innovative, proven, and widespread model. I support the PB process because it:

- *
Increases civic engagement,
- *
Builds stronger relationships between residents, government, and community organizations,
- *
Broadens political participation especially from historically marginalized communities,
- *
Makes spending more equitable and effective, and
- *
Engages new community leaders.

Increasing public engagement in our democratic process, that's Participatory Budgeting! PB gives people real power over real money. I urge you to give an abundance of support to the recommendations made by the City of Merced Parks & Recreation Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate McClatchy
Community Resident

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