



DEAN PRESTON

September 13, 2024

Office of Small Business
Attn: Legacy Business Registration Application
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: *Letter of Nomination for PACT, Inc. to the Legacy Business Registry*

Dear Mr. Kurylo:

I am writing to nominate Plan of Action for Challenging Times (PACT, Inc.), located at 635 Divisadero Street, to the Legacy Business Registry Program.

PACT was founded in 1963 by Everett Brandon, JD, and Henry Lucas, Jr. DDS, in San Francisco during the civil rights movement, and was established to address the lack of Black employment in downtown businesses. Originally a free job placement and development office, PACT opened its first office at 593 Market Street and was officially incorporated as a nonprofit in 1964. In 1970, PACT acquired its San Francisco headquarters at 635 Divisadero Street in the Western Addition, an area of great importance to the African American community of the city.

In 2002, PACT expanded into the East Bay, serving 600 students annually through TRiO Talent Search and Upward Bound programs, with sites in Richmond and Vallejo. However, by 2016, PACT's programmatic work for San Francisco residents ceased due to demographic shifts and difficulties meeting federal funding criteria, reflecting broader issues of Black displacement and gentrification in the City. PACT's East Bay activities have continued, and the Divisadero headquarters in District 5 has remained active throughout and is a landmark of Black history in San Francisco. As one of the few Black-owned properties that survived decades of urban renewal and gentrification, it serves as an important landmark for PACT and the broader community.

Despite the setback in 2016, PACT is determined to reconnect with San Francisco's schools and address the ongoing inequalities that continue to displace Black communities. The organization's three-year strategic plan aims to relaunch its college advising work, free from the constraints of federal guidelines. PACT is actively seeking new funding from city, county, state, and foundation sources to support an innovative program for students from elementary to high school, focusing on academic intervention, persistence, and college advising. PACT recently celebrated its 60th anniversary, and this renewed effort mirrors the original spirit of the organization, reaffirming PACT's commitment to closing the achievement gap for historically underserved youth in San Francisco.

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Given its historic presence in District 5's Western Addition, and its ongoing commitment to helping low-income and minority youth access higher education, I strongly believe that Plan of Action for Challenging Times would benefit greatly from being a part of San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dean Preston
District 5 Supervisor