



**HUMAN RIGHTS/FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

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June 4, 1986

Budget & Finance Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS/FAIR HOUSING
COMMISSION

Summary:

In calendar year 1987, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) expects to allocate \$240,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) to the Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission (HR/FHC). In order to maintain its current level of service, the Commission will require \$254,000. This difference of \$14,000 amounts to \$7,000 each when shared by the City and County.

The Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission, therefore requests that the City allocate \$7,000 from the General Fund, as its portion of the \$14,000 required for the HR/FHC to maintain its current level of service for budget year 1987.

Background:

The Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission (HR/FHC) is currently being funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds, from the City and County, administered by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). Although the SHRA suffered CDBG funding cuts of twenty-nine percent (29%) in calendar year 1986, the HR/FHC budget was maintained at \$240,000 (the 1985 level). It is estimated that SHRA will incur CDBG funding reductions of sixteen to thirty-two percent (16 - 32%) yet the agency feels that by reclassifying the HR/FHC into the Administrative Category, it will be able to fund the Commission again at \$240,000. If it can be assumed that the adjustments can be made and the CDBG budget is not reduced any further, this will represent the third year of funding at the level of \$240,000.

While the amount of funding has not decreased, the level of service the agency can provide at this amount has decreased. During 1986, this level of funding has only allowed for seven (7) months of funding for one of the Associate positions. In order to maintain the Associate's position for a full year and to include a five percent (5%) cost of living increase in operating funds, the HR/FHC will require a total budget of \$254,000 in calendar year 1987 just to maintain its current level of service.

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The HR/FHC currently has seven (7) staff positions (6 are filled; an Associate will be added in July): Executive Director; Administrative Assistant; Secretary; Human Rights Associate (2); and Fair Housing Associate (2).

The staff provides services to the populations of both the City and County. In the last 10 months (July 85 - April 86), staff responded to approximately 3,000 general assistance/landlord tenant inquiries. Forty-six percent (46%) of the inquiries were from City residents and 54% were from County residents.

During that same time period, staff handled 122 cases of housing and employment discrimination. Of those cases, 47% involved City residents and 53% involved County residents.

In addition to handling discrimination cases and general assistance/landlord tenant inquiries, the Commission's activities include:

- Working with other City/County agencies on housing and human rights concerns;
- Holding public hearings;
- Providing public education and research on Fair Housing and Human Rights Issues;
- Investigating and taking action to alleviate tension resulting from intergroup conflict;
- Special projects as requested by the City and County.

Addressing the above areas with a staff of seven is a monumental task and any further reduction in staff would severely impair the ability of the Commission to fulfill its mandate.

I am available to answer any questions regarding this request. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robbin DeShields Randolph,
Executive Director

RDR:DRT