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APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL
JUL 1 1997
OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

STREET
SUITE 400
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2977

June 20, 1997

PH 916-264-5200
FAX 916-264-7643

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ON POLICY PRINCIPLES REGARDING WELFARE
REFORM

LOCATION: City-wide -- All Districts

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council, by resolution: 1) adopt the five principles for welfare reform as identified by the Sacramento County "Welfare to Work" Policy Board, and 2) direct staff to transmit these principles to state legislators.

CONTACT PERSON: Bina Lefkovitz, Special Projects Director
City Manager's Office
264-8239

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: July 1, 1997

SUMMARY

This report requests the City Council's support of a resolution and accompanying set of principles to guide state legislation around welfare reform.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New federal laws set forth broad parameters for welfare reform. The State is currently in the process of enacting legislation to implement welfare reform in California. In response, the County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors authorized a "Welfare to Work" Policy Board to enable input on and avenues for two-way communication and problem solving about

Resolution on Policy Principles Regarding Welfare Reform

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implementing welfare reform at the local level. The Policy Board includes representatives from a variety of public policy boards within the county. City Council members Steve Cohn and Darrell Steinberg represent the City Council on the Policy Board. Deputy City Manager Jack Crist and Special Projects Manager Bina Lefkovitz have attended the policy board meetings as well.

The Welfare to Work Policy Board reached agreement on five general welfare reform principles to serve as a long-term framework for legislative and public policy advocacy around current and future State welfare reform legislation. The principles are attached as Exhibit A. Each agency represented on the Policy Board has been asked to seek it's board/council approval of these principles.

The City of Sacramento has a vested interest in the way welfare reform is implemented locally as 60% of the County's AFDC (*Assistance to Families with Dependent Children*) population reside within the city limits. AFDC has been replaced by TANF (*Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*). The County administers the TANF program and must place 12,000 TANF recipients in jobs or in work experience opportunities by November 1997. In preparation, the Policy Board has been also reviewing policies and operating procedures for implementation of community work opportunities to enable TANF recipients to gain work experience. City departments are currently being surveyed to identify the number and type of community work opportunities the City may be able to make available for TANF recipients.

At this point in time, City staff requests Council formally adopt a resolution and five guiding principles for legislative advocacy which relate to education and training; child care; general assistance; flexibility and local control, and simplification of procedures. City staff will return to City Council for further action as local welfare reform plans and initiatives are formulated.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None at this time. The policy recommendation around general assistance is important to ensure Counties are not solely responsible to pay for the safety net. Reductions in general assistance funds by the County and the State will likely impact homeless programs and homeless populations, which are largely found in the City. These cuts, if made, will likely translate into more homeless and increased demands on police and fire. However, in future reports, Council may be asked for approval on various inter-agency proposals that would combine financial resources to address welfare to work programs. Potential future costs for the City in implementing work opportunities for welfare recipients may include enhanced supervisory training and support for City staff, and training and equipment for workers.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

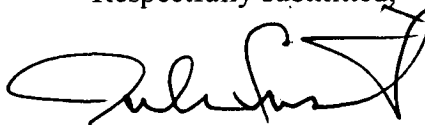
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The adoption of these guiding principles is consistent with Council's emphasis on regional cooperation in addressing critical economic and quality of life issues that affect residents in the greater Sacramento area.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS

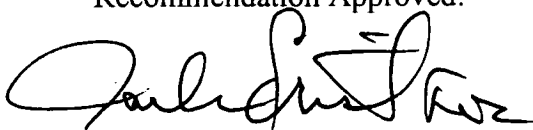
No goods or services being purchased.

Respectfully submitted,



JACK CRIST
Deputy City Manager

Recommendation Approved:



WILLIAM H. EDGAR
City Manager

**Policy Principles
of the
Sacramento County
Welfare to Work Policy Board**

**Education and
Training**

Everyone who can work should work. While entry-level minimum wage jobs can provide avenues to better jobs, they do not bring a family's earnings up above the federal poverty level and cannot sustain a family. Education and training opportunities offer the greatest potential for long term self-sufficiency and represent an investment in the future.

Child Care

Every working family should have access to safe, affordable child care. Parents should be able to exercise choice in selecting child care that suits their needs, values, and child-rearing practices.

Options for child care for poor families need to be expanded to include school-based and work-site programs, and programs that take into consideration transportation issues and access during non-traditional work hours.

General Assistance

General Assistance should be a part of a statewide seamless system of service delivery for people in need. The State should share in the cost of General Assistance and the cost to the County should be no greater than that reached in fiscal year 1996-1997.

**Flexibility and
Local Control**

While general eligibility criteria and grant levels should be consistent throughout the State, the counties should have the ability to develop programs and delivery systems to meet local needs and involve the community without a cumbersome waiver process.

Funding should be allocated to provide evaluations of federally required outcome measures (such as reduction in truancy and teen pregnancy, and increased employment among public assistance recipients) as well as other potential impacts such as homelessness and crime.

Simplification

Application and service delivery procedures and processes should not be barriers to applicants, recipients or service providers.

The County should have the ability to implement cost-effective measures as measured by staffing and resources as well as desired outcomes.

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL
JUL 1 1997
OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 97-391

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION ON POLICY PRINCIPLES REGARDING WELFARE REFORM

WHEREAS, the County administers and is responsible for the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program;

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento has a vested interested in how the County implements welfare reform given that 60 percent of the AFDC caseload resides within the City limits;

WHEREAS, the County has created a Welfare to Work Policy Board that includes representatives from the political jurisdictions within the county including representatives from the Sacramento City Council to foster dialogue, communication and joint problem solving regarding the implementation of welfare reform;

WHEREAS, the Welfare to Work Policy board has adopted a set of State legislative principles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, THAT:

- 1) the attached statement of legislative principles is hereby adopted; and
- 2) staff is directed to submit these principles to state legislators.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____