

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**COMMITTEE NAME:** LAW AND LEGISLATION Jul 5 9 59 AM '96  
**MEETING DATE:** April 16, 1996  
**MEETING TIME:** 12:00 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** 915 I Street, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. by Deborah Ortiz, Chairperson.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Committee Members Fargo (arrived at 12:05 p.m.), Steinberg, Waters, Ortiz

Absent: None

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1.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

1.1 **Legislative Update**

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Recommendation of Staff: For Committee Information

Ken Emanuels, Lobbyist for the City of Sacramento, gave an overview of legislative items the City is tracking at this time. A few of those are:

- \* Two bills that would intervene and change the process for site selection and awarding contracts to developers.
- \* City of Oakland and statewide coalition is sponsoring legislation that would prohibit the sale of fortified wines and malt liquor. Prospect of helping inner-city neighborhoods.
- \* AB 3053 prohibits continuing levy of a development tax. Sponsored by BIA.

2.0 STAFF REPORTS

2.1 **Ordinance Amending Sections 6.03.031 and 6.10.131, Adding Section 6.02.028, New Fees, Increased Fees**

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Recommendation of Staff: Approve Staff Recommendation and Forward to City Council

Committee Action: Approved and Forwarded to City Council

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Dennis Kubo, Interim Division Manager, asked the Committee to review and approve two new ordinance amendments and one new ordinance in relationship to establishing a one month law amnesty program to waive delinquency fee for dog and swine licenses and a new ordinance that would allow Council to set fees for the Animal Control and Care Division. The two amendments would allow the Chief Animal Control Officer authorization to waive delinquency fees up to 1 month to a year. The intent is to encourage citizens to get their animals licensed. The department will be focusing on the renewal licensing rather than on issuing of new licenses. It will also allow the Chief Animal Control Officer to select a given month in a year where the hope is that citizens will come in based on an amnesty where they wouldn't be charged a delinquency fee for late license registration. With regard to the new fees - the department is proposing two new fees. One is a daily rental fee on animal traps. The second one would be a \$25 service fee to owners for animals to be picked up.

Committee Member Fargo, asked how citizens can currently obtain dog licenses. Mr. Kubo says they can complete an application (and mail it) or come downtown to the Revenue Dept. to pay. Ms. Fargo says she feels the City should make it easier for citizens to get licenses.

Committee Member Waters, asked if licensing dogs could be included in City-sponsored Community Nights. Mr. Kubo said "yes".

Committee Member Ortiz, asked if they were proposing to raise the cost of the license. Mr. Kubo said "no, there was a fee increase last year".

No motion was taken. All were in favor to approve staff recommendation and forward to City Council for full review.

**2.2. Ordinance amending procedures for making certain unpaid costs special assessments upon the properties to which the costs are related / utilities services, weed abatement, nuisance abatement.**

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Recommendation of Staff:

Approve Staff Recommendation and Forward to City Council

Committee Action:

Approved and Forwarded to City Council

Margaret Freeman, Revenue Manager, asked the Committee to forward to Council for adoption an Ordinance amending Title 64 and Title 61 of the Sacramento City Code related to special assessments - amending procedures on making unpaid costs special assessments. Annually certain unpaid costs related to property, which include sidewalk repair, utilities, etc. become special assessments if declared so by City Council and end up as liens against the property. Some of the assessment hearings have taken a long time and there's no way to gauge how many people will come in to protest. Council has asked staff to streamline this process. City staff proposes to amend 4 chapters that would amend the

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current process by adding a hearing before a Delinquency Lien Hearing Officer prior to the City Council public hearing confirming special assessments. The additional hearing by the Delinquency Lien Hearing Officer would require additional funding. Worse case scenario would be 5 to 15 thousand dollars annually.

Committee Member Steinberg, commented that the process makes sense because with the current process Council does not have enough factual information to make a reasonable decision at the hearing.

Committee Member Waters, had some concerns regarding cost involved.

Committee Member Ortiz, said that the way the report was written gives the perception that it would be more costly to go to this option than to leave the current system in place. But the extra cost may be worth the time and effort Council puts into hearing the cases.

A motion was made by Committee Member Steinberg, seconded by Committee Member Fargo, to approve staff recommendation and forward to City Council for full review. The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote.

## 2.3 Public Safety Legislation Update

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Recommendation of Staff: Approve Staff Recommendation

Committee Action: Approved Recommendation

Jane Christenson, Administrative Analyst, Police Dept., gave an overview of several police-related legislative bills with recommendations on what position to take (in the areas of alcohol, weapons, parole rehabilitation, drugs and juvenile justice) that the City is now tracking.

Committee Member Steinberg, asked what the City was doing specifically to push AB 614 (Parole/Rehabilitation) to passage. Ms. Christenson said that chances for passage were good. Ms. Christenson said that we could send a letter stating opposition. Mr. Steinberg said that it would be a good idea to bring to full council. Ms. Christenson said that they could bring a report back to full council with some statistics.

Committee Member Fargo, said that we should do something more than just send a letter. This issue is very critical for Sacramento.

Committee Member Ortiz, said that she also feels it is very critical and would like to have someone go and provide testimony. Ms. Ortiz said that she would like the Chief of Police to know that there are Committee members interested in being part of the lobbying effort.

A motion was made by Committee Member Fargo, seconded by Committee Member Waters, moved to approve staff recommendation.

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ADJOURNED - There being no further business to come before the Law & Legislation Committee, the meeting was adjourned at the hour of 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Aline Soto, Committee Secretary

APPROVED:



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Deborah Ortiz, Committee Chair

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