

MINUTES
OF THE
SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 1, 1994

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Sacramento City Council was called to order by Mayor Serna at 5:20 p.m. on the above date in the 35th Avenue Conference Room, 1391 - 35th Avenue, Sacramento.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Fargo, Kastanis, Ortiz, Pannell, Steinberg, Yee and Mayor Serna

Absent: Councilmembers Pane

Mayor Serna welcomed everyone and shared the purpose for this Workshop. With the defeat of the Crime Reduction Program (Measure T) on the June ballot, the City Manager and his staff, with the assistance of the various Department Heads, have taken on the challenge to explore and begin identifying the needs of the Police Department, keeping in mind the priorities set by the Council. This workshop will look at these needs and listen to a presentation of possible options and means of funding for consideration by the Council.

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES

Bill Edgar, City Manager, began the presentation with a review of the priorities that have been set by the Council and how the majority of these are being met in various ways. The one priority that has not been significantly address is public safety. The measure which was presented to the voters in June would have provided funding to begin addressing public safety needs. The defeat of Measure T requires the City to reassess what options are available to address the concerns relative to the uncertain financial conditions.

Mr. Edgar continued that the executive staff has developed plans to address the Council's priorities. They are to balance the budget; restructure the organization; and improve the neighborhoods. He added that a safe neighborhood is the catalyst for neighborhood revitalization.

David Martinez, Deputy City Manager addressed the Police Department Ten Year Strategic Plan - Partnership for Safety, approved by the City Council in May of 1993. The strategic goals seek to: maintain basic public safety protection for all citizens of Sacramento; focus resources on crime reduction by the detection and apprehension of criminals; work with the entire neighborhood to resolve crime related problems; manage the traffic flow on the street by enforcing traffic laws and responding to neighborhood complaints.

It is estimated that full implementation of this Strategic Plan would cost approximately \$15 million.

Art Venegas, Police Chief addressed the issue of the immediate needs of the Department in addition to the long term needs. Given as examples were: maintaining the existing funding for neighborhood police officers (NPO's); increasing staffing levels for patrol units; forming a career criminal program to remove the most dangerous criminals from the streets; addressing the juvenile crime problem; and providing for career development and increasing the ethnic and gender representation.

Chief Venegas additionally addressed the issue of the NPO's and their effect in the neighborhoods. They have not replaced patrol officers, but are in addition to these units; the NPO's have been allowed the opportunity to work in the neighborhoods working on long term problem solving activities.

John Molloy, Executive Director of SHRA spoke about the funding that the Agency currently provides for eighteen NPO's throughout the City, a total of nine teams each having two officers; each team costs approximately \$200,000 per year. Current financing is done by a combination of redevelopment tax increments (both cash flow and bond proceeds), public housing operating subsidies, public housing drug prevention/elimination grants, Community Development Block Grant funds and proceeds from administration of the mortgage revenue bond program; there are resources to fund all nine teams through June of 1995; that unless things change, the teams would reduce to six in 1995-96.

Mr. Molloy then addressed a number of possibilities, of which several rely on federal and state actions, which might enable the Agency to look at stabilizing or even increasing the number of teams. Possibilities are: potential for establishment of a McKinney Act (Homeless) Block Grant; additional funds under the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program; revisiting the cap on total amount of tax increment revenue collected from Downtown and several neighborhood area; eventual materialization of some tax increment flow in the newly declared redevelopment project areas; and realization of the Army Depot Trust Fund.

Mr. Martinez reviewed the current problem. General Fund resources will continue to be scarce until the economy rebounds and the State Budget is balanced. Therefore, the problem becomes how best to balance key programs with conflicting demands such as: expanding service needs vs. scarce resources; public safety vs. other city program needs; long term goals vs. short term necessities and greater police presence vs. better paid employees.

Mr. Martinez revisited the reductions already experienced. Police and Fire approximately 9%, other departments by 15-20%. Over \$18 million annually has been shifted away from our City due to recent State actions, a greater impact than the recession. The 1994-95 budget is balanced by use of Gas Tax Reserves and expenditure freezes. Possible funding sources vary in potential, availability, restrictions, and procedures to obtain funding. Collectively the

sources are typically uncertain or onetime resources.

The summary of options presented were: a) status quo [wait until economy provides additional resource]; b) operating budget reductions [continue with all City department reductions to provide resources to be reallocated to Police Department]; c) phased approach [incrementally augment the Police Budget from onetime reserves and PERS rate savings. Future year funding would need to be reviewed before continuing phasing]; d) Measure T in November 1994 [place measure back on ballot]; e) Ballot Measure for Police officers only [place measure on November, 1994 ballot]; f) ballot measure in 1996 [place measure on ballot in two years]

There was considerable discussion on the following topics:

- pros and cons of placing Measure T back to the ballot in November, 1994
- possibility of a 1996 measure
- SB 99 funds assisting with funding
- partnerships with neighborhood policing
- Reserve Officers (their duties)
- report back on non-sworn duties
- working with Chamber, tax groups, unions, neighborhoods [determine support for a 1996 ballot measure]

It was agreed that option (c), a phased approach, would be the best choice at this time. There was not an abundance of support for returning to the November, 1994 ballot due to time constraints and lack of sufficient planning and strategy.

Mayor Serna advised City Manager Edgar to look ahead at scheduling several public hearings at City Hall to determine whether or not there is community interest and support in putting forth a campaign for the 1996 ballot. He further advised that the Chamber of Commerce was forming a Task Force to look at the problem and options and needed to be included along with all City groups that might be interested in assisting.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance, input and caring on such important issues.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at the hour of 8:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


VALERIE A. BURROWES
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:


JOE SERNA, JR.
MAYOR