



2.10

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

ROBERT P. THOMAS  
DIRECTOR

G. ERLING LINGGI  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WALTER S. UEDA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO**  
CALIFORNIA

June 5, 1991

1231 I STREET  
SUITE 400  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2977

916-449-5200  
FAX 916-449-8584

DIVISIONS:  
GOLF  
CROCKER ART MUSEUM  
HISTORY AND SCIENCE  
METROPOLITAN ARTS  
SACRAMENTO ZOO  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
• NORTH  
• SOUTH  
• CITY-WIDE

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: TREE TRIMMING BACKLOG STATUS REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides information regarding the status of the tree trimming request backlog which was brought to the City Council in April 1990. Further, this report recommends that the City Council continue the \$200,000 Landscape and Lighting Assessment District Tree Maintenance Component funding for contracted tree trimming for FY 1991-92.

**BACKGROUND**

In April 1990, the City Council approved a new policy for tree trimming and removal which placed a moratorium on City tree trimming services for trees planted on private property in front yards. The City Council also approved an augmentation of \$200,000 from the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District to increase the tree trimming services for City street trees. At the time those actions were taken, Tree Services faced a trimming backlog of over 1,000 requests, some dating back as long as two years.

Through the implementation of these actions, the trimming request backlog has been reduced to from 1,000 to 333 current requests and the time backlog from two years to less than one year. The private contractor has provided trimming service to 562 City street trees and City Tree Services crews provided service to over 6,000 trees during the same time period. The contracted tree trimming services primarily targeted large downtown tree trimming, while City crews provided a wide range of services including low-limb trimming, emergency situations, rotational trimming, and special requests. City Tree Services employees 24 tree trimmers working in five to six crews.

In addition to reducing the backlog, continuing the increased level of trimming service to City street trees will result in the improvement of trimming rotation schedules for all City street trees. Prior to the \$200,000 increase in funding, the tree trimming cycle was based primarily on responding to emergency calls. Most trees could not expect service more than once every 20 to 25 years.

Urban forestry professional recommend a trimming rotation cycle of between 5 and 7 years for street trees. With the additional funding from the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District and the policy of not providing service to private property front yards trees, staff anticipates that the trimming rotation will decrease from 20 to 25 years to between 10 and 15 years. This is a significant step to improve the health of Sacramento's urban forest.

In addition, the City is currently developing a comprehensive Tree Management Plan for Sacramento which may propose options to further reduce the trim cycle or provide new funding options for tree maintenance. Community workshops have been scheduled during June to gather input from the public as the Tree Management Plan is being developed. A copy of the Workshop flyer is attached as Exhibit A.

#### FINANCIAL DATA

This report recommends continuation of \$200,000 from the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District Tree Maintenance Component in FY 1991-92 to continue contracted tree trimming which will further reduce or eliminate the backlog and improve the trimming rotation for City street trees.

#### POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Continuation of the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District funding for tree maintenance is a pro-active approach to the City's tree maintenance needs. Development of the Tree Management Plan will propose future policy direction for City Tree Services.

#### MBE/WBE EFFORTS

Every effort will be made to meet the City's MBE/WBE goals when selecting contractors for tree trimming.

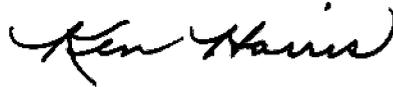
#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve this report as part of the FY 1991-92 budget process. In addition, it is recommended that the City Council, by resolution, approve continued funding the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District Tree Maintenance component in the amount of \$200,000 in FY 1991-92 for contracted tree maintenance for City street trees.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve this report as part of the FY 1991-92 budget process. In addition, it is recommended that the City Council, by resolution, approve continued funding the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District Tree Maintenance component in the amount of \$200,000 in FY 1991-92 for contracted tree maintenance for City street trees.

Respectfully submitted,



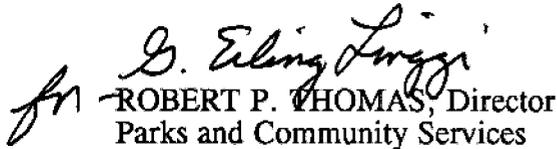
KEN HARRIS, Manager  
Parks and Recreation City Wide

Approved:



WALTER J. SLIPE  
City Manager

Approved:



ROBERT P. THOMAS, Director  
Parks and Community Services

RT/KH:jb

All Districts  
June 5, 1991

Contact Person: Ken Harris, 449-5384

**\* CITY OF TREES \* SACRAMENTO \* TREE CITY U.S.A. \***

*shady, cool, green, leafy, beautiful and graceful,  
summer fruit, fall color, spring blossoms, winter branches  
tree houses, forests and parks, canopied streets,  
pretty yards, a quiet place to sit, ancient and growing*

**THE "CITY OF TREES" INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE  
JUNE TREE CELEBRATION**

Sacramento is the "City of Trees". Try to imagine our City without trees. No cool shade in the summer; no canopied tree-lined streets.

The City of Sacramento will be honoring trees in the month of June by holding a series of workshops to share ideas on how to better preserve our beautiful trees and keep our city green. The workshops are part of a comprehensive Tree Management Plan process which is just beginning. And, we want your ideas!!!

**JUNE TREE WORKSHOPS**

Saturday, June 8, 1991  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Kennedy High School Cafeteria  
6715 Gloria Drive

Saturday, June 8, 1991  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
City Planning Department  
1231 I Street, Room 100

Saturday, June 22, 1991  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Sierra 2 Community Center  
2791 24th Street  
Curtis Hall

Saturday, June 22, 1991  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Woodlake Community Center  
Woodlake Park  
500 Arden Way

**WORKSHOP EVENTS**

- \* Outdoor neighborhood tree walk with tree experts
- \* Discussion of Tree Master Plan process with tree consultants
- \* Tree question and answer period with a panel of tree experts
- \* Share your ideas and vision for our "City of Trees"!

For more information, please call Martin Fitch 449-5304

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**





# Sacramento Police Officers Association

2617 CAPITOL AVENUE  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816  
(916) 444-7661

June 5, 1991

To: Members of the City Council:

The Sacramento Police Officers Association supports, in concept, the budget proposal submitted to you by Chief Kearns. This endorsement comes from the men and women called upon each day to carry out the mission of the Police Department. This bare bones budget reflects approximately 14% of the total budget, which is low in comparison to other cities such as Long Beach where costs approach 30%. As to specifics, the Association supports:

1. An increase of eight Sergeants, mid-shift, to reduce span of control. Reasonings of the Association are attached.
2. Transfer of six officers and a Sergeant from Community Resources Section to street duties. Our reasonings are attached.
3. Full utilization of asset seizure funds within the Police Department and we urge the Council to not diminish funding of critical police functions by re-allocation of these funds to other programs.

This community is well served by strong, intelligent, caring men and women. It is already one of the hardest jobs in the world, but our officers remain committed to serve their public in an honorable and professional manner. They deserve parity in compensation and adequate equipment to get the job done safely and effectively.

Sincerely,

  
James Jorgensen,  
President

JJ:lai

### SPAN OF CONTROL

According to the recommendations of California Peace Officers Standards and Training, the proper span of control is 6-8 officers per supervisor. Our police management has made great strides to maintain most standards set by P.O.S.T. in police management of the Police Department. However, there has been a slow response in the Police Department to meet span of control standards. Most divisions and sections of the Police Department meet these standards as can be observed in the Traffic Section, TAC Teams, Vice Detail, Narcotics Detail, SWAT, SES, and POPS Program most recently. Most of these details are specialized units and deal with individual areas of responsibilities making supervision relatively easy.

The other large division of the department detectives also has a rigid span of control.

This is not the case with the Patrol Division. This takes on special significance when you factor in the complexities of the Patrol Sergeant's duties and responsibilities as well as the amount of inexperienced and probationary officers that are in daily need of supervision, training and evaluation. There are swing shift Sergeants that supervise as many as twenty-five (25) officers at any one time. A large percentage of these officers are seen only once at roll-call during the shift. This affords the opportunity for adverse incidents and increased City liability because of this lack of supervision.

In my 26 years of police service, I have never known the demands and stress levels to be so high. An officer's potential

of violent confrontations with members of the drug and gang cultures is continually present. IN 1987, my most recent complete data, 63,842 police officers were assaulted, 21,273 injured and 155 killed. You can't afford to delay increasing the eight Sergeant positions called for in the Chief's request. With this potential for violent confrontation at any given moment, we must provide our officers with continuous guidance and direction. These men and women are given an awesome amount of authority and citizens of Sacramento have at least a \$50,000.00 investment in each officer via training and equipment costs. In my discussions with Sacramento Police Officers concerning the ugly Rodney King incident in Los Angeles, many times comments have concerned the 16-20 officers just standing around. What has been blatantly clear? The lack of supervisors. You have close to 20 officers at the scene with one supervisor in a major incident. According to POST, there should have been at least three supervisors involved.

#### CURRENT PATROL STAFFING PROBLEMS

The current sworn roster as of January, 1991, reflects 618 officers. The number also reflects probationary officers. The authorized numbers do not accurately reflect the number of officers that are available to fill a patrol position without field training officers.

This dramatically affects the ability of patrol services to meet the primary function of patrol services. This becomes even more significant when the following are factored in, i.e., officers that are on vacation, holiday, sick leave, military

leave, IOD, light duty, special details, special assignments, maternity leave, A.O.T., administrative leave or A.W.O.P. Granted, these are fluctuating figures, however, they have to be projected when staffing is addressed. Other factors that impact services are retirements, resignations, deaths and dismissals. Here again, the attrition rate is flexible but has to be projected.

During the 1990 budget year, several personnel changes and shifts were made to shore up the shortages that put a large bite on the back fill over time budget. But the demands on the backfill overtime budget did not reduce until a directive was sent to the Deputy Chief of Operations to draw upon officer resources outside of patrol services. Many of these officers only filled these positions for a limited time due to other commitments, or because they work 8 hour shifts. This dramatically reduced the backfill overtime budget by way of example on the day shift roster only; November 1990 there were 73 officers called in on overtime, in December 1990 there were 63 officers called; in January 1991, there were 26 officers called in and in February, 1991, 1 officer was called in. In January, the 1991 shift change took effect which redistributed the patrol personnel into the district cars. Also noted is the two man cars were eliminated and there was a significant shift of personnel from primary units to assigned units, allowing for more flexibility in shifting personnel from one area of command to another, and shoring up shortages in minimum staffing.

However, Patrol Management still is unable to maintain

minimum staffing levels as recently as April and May of 1991. The late watch (2130-0730) especially has been hit with staffing problems. Recently, South Area Late Watch Patrol has been below minimum street staffing levels. It has been a historic fact that Late Watch is understaffed even when all authorized positions are filled.

#### TRANSFER OF OFFICERS FROM CRS

We support the Department's move of six officers and a Sergeant from Community Resources Section to street duties. The thin blue line has been stretched to the breaking point. Officers on our first watch find it virtually impossible to take a holiday and as the Chief's report noted, response times are increasing on Priority 1 calls.

Our Association supports community service programs. Currently we are working with Community Resources on providing financial assistance for a kids I.D. booth at William Land Park on Labor Day. We founded the local Police Athletic League Program and donate over \$25,000.00 per year along with personnel to work with kids in the program. Police officers donate countless hours of off-duty time in uniform each year to community service groups. We believe the POPS program is providing a hands-on community program which offsets the movement of these officers. The need on the streets for officers in uniform is critical and unless we move bodies to the street, most neighborhoods will only see their local officer moving from call to call.

June 5, 1991

City Council  
City of Sacramento  
915 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Recommendation to Restructure  
Off-Street Parking Fees for the  
1991-92 Fiscal Year

Honorable Members in Session:

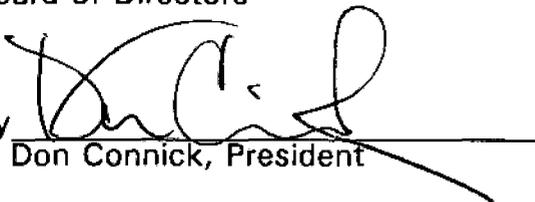
On behalf of the Downtown Plaza Merchants Association, I encourage you to support the above-referenced recommendation regarding off-street parking fees. The recommendation will improve business for downtown retailers by providing adequate, covered parking at a competitive rate of \$5 per day, while encouraging alternative commute modes for shoppers and commuters downtown.

The Downtown Plaza Merchants Association supports this recommendation and hopes you will also support this step toward improving parking in the downtown area.

Very truly yours,

DOWNTOWN PLAZA  
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors

By



Don Connick, President



# DOWNTOWN PLAZA

Regional Shopping Center & Office Complex

June 5, 1991

City Council  
City of Sacramento  
915 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Recommendation to Restructure Off-Street  
Parking Fees for the 1991-92 Fiscal Year

Honorable Members in Session:

Downtown Plaza Associates strongly supports the above-referenced recommendation to provide a competitive rate of \$5 per day for downtown parking facilities. It will attract parkers to public garages who would otherwise use private facilities.

We agree that the above-referenced recommendation will stimulate downtown businesses by providing protected, covered parking at a competitive and reasonable rate while continuing to promote alternative commute modes.

We encourage your support of this recommendation as a positive step for off-street parking downtown.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis Smith  
General Manager