

MINUTES

OF THE

SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SACRAMENTO CITY FINANCING AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

June 11, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Budget Meeting of the Sacramento City Council was called to order by Mayor Serna at 7:07 p.m. on the above date in the City Council Chamber located at 915 I Street.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council members Cohn, Hammond, Kerth, Steinberg, Waters, Yee, and Mayor Serna

Absent: Council members Fargo and Pannell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Serna

Special Budget Meeting

11.0 **STAFF REPORTS**

Budget Items:

Fire Department
Police Department

Betty Matsuoka, Deputy City Manager, gave an overview of the two budgets. She explained how the proposed Fire Department Budget reduction of \$1.6 million would be accomplished. There will be no fire stations closed. One Truck Company out of 8 will be eliminated, with the 7 remaining trucks redeployed.

Sacramento Decisions recommended reducing the Police Budget by \$4.19 million. They suggested budget cuts for Patrol/PO's, Special Units, Traffic, and Investigations. Staff's proposed budget has cuts of \$4.20 Million and includes cutting 44 full time equivalent positions. The proposed cuts are as follows:

- Civilian Admin \$19 million
- Span of Control \$9.0 million
- Investigations \$8 million
- Traffic \$7 million
- Other \$1 million

However, last ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday, word was received that ~~44~~ million in grant funding has been awarded through a federal source. The local match requirement was waived and the amount was increased by the match amount.

The new strategy will be to use grant funding to delay any Police Department cuts for 6 months. Then if additional grants are available, they will be used to fund cuts for the second half of the year and fund the City contribution to the Misdemeanor Jail. If there are no additional grant funds, the proposed reductions will be implemented in January 1998.

Fire Department Budget

Gary Costamagna, Fire Chief, reviewed the proposed cuts and mitigations in 3 areas:

- For Prevention/Education, efficiencies have been proposed that will result in \$160,000 in savings so no programs will be dropped
- For Emergency Planning, the State has agreed to mitigate \$10,000
- For Fire and Basic Life Support, to meet the \$1.3 million cut, it will be necessary to eliminate one Truck Company.

Mr. Costamagna reviewed the locations of the 22 Fire Engine Companies. They will remain as is. He showed a map with the current 8 Truck Companies. The Truck Companies are the tool boxes of the team. The Truck Company at 43rd and Gloria Drive has been the one with the least number of calls and will be eliminated. To help cover the area, the Truck Company at Lake Valley will be moved to Meadowview.

Mayor Serna asked about response time reduction.

Mr. Costamagna answered that it will go from 4 minutes to 6 to 8 minutes in the area served by the Truck Company to be eliminated. He also explained why a reduction in crew size from 4 to 3 is not an alternative. Sacramento's physical plants are spread out too far to use 3 man crews. 4 man crews are also safer. There will not be any firefighters laid off.

Public Testimony:

Dick Maybery, President of Sacramento Fire Fighters Local 522, spoke of the need for increased fire protection. He stated it was an insult to consider only Engine Companies as "first responders" and not Truck Companies. Truck Companies are the first responders to some kinds of calls. There are fewer firefighters today than in 1974, yet there has been a 33% increase in the number of calls. The area served has also increased. Sacramento's stations are among the busiest in the nation.

Eileen Voyd, resident of 65th and Lemon Hill, stated that response time in her area is not currently 4 minutes as was stated, but it is 10 minutes or more. One emergency call took 45 minutes. She asked that no trucks be pulled out.

Mayor Serna requested that a report back be made on the 45 minute call. He also stated that the Council and other stakeholders will try to put a police and fire funding issue on the ballot in 1998. A permanent fix is required to restore these cuts.

Police Department Budget

Mayor Serna read the Cops More 96 grant award letter from the Department of Justice. He commended the chief for getting the grant, and the waver.

Arturo Venegas, Police Chief, recapped the budget. He explained that the budget reduction recommendation was \$4.2 million. Total new grant revenue is \$2,978,715 and total efficiency revenues are \$1,250,000 leaving a balance of \$28,715. He requested that there not be any cuts in the Police Department.

Chief Venegas hoped there would be grants forthcoming to provide the \$3 million capital investment for the jail. He also described plans for the proposed Neighborhood Police Academy.

Councilman Waters recommended eliminating the Public Informational Officer (PIO) positions and hiring a consultant to study the "gray" areas of the budget so that additional uniformed officers could be added.

Mayor Serna stated that if consultants were recommended for the police department they should be done in all the management departments. He asked for a report back on where future cuts could be made.

Public Testimony:

Mayor Serna asked Gene Burchett if the "SPOA Alternative Budget Proposal" that had been handed out was an official document of the SPOA.

Gene Burchett, SPOA Representative, answered that although it was written by a group of SPOA members, it is not the official position of the Board of Directors. He thanked the Chief for his success with the grant.

Pat Dowden, Lieutenant Watch Commander, gave specific examples of how critical staffing levels have become. He described other problems:

- Officers have to pay their own way for training
- Com Center has mandatory overtime
- Can not maintain minimum staffing because officers are too tired to work overtime
- Street supervision staffing proposed cuts
- 15 radios short on a shift

Dave Jenest, of Community Watch, stated that Kerth and Yee brought up important points. He gave details of some of the needs that are not being met. He asked that the police dept be brought up to the national average in staffing.

Alan Smith yielded his time to Dave Jenest.

Dave Jenest stated that patrol shortages are critical City wide. Crime does increase when police staffing is decreased. He gave specific examples.

Jim Walker, Board member of Midtown Business Association, stated how foolish it would be to cut police officers when Sacramento is one third below the national average.

Heidy Kellison, of the River Park Neighborhood Association, commended the officers in her neighborhood. She is against any cuts and supported a ballot measure to fund police and fire.

Chris Brown, of 20th Business Association, spoke of the success that have been achieved in his neighborhood. The success came by strongly enforcing misdemeanors but now there are not enough officers to do the job.

This information was received and filed.

12.0 **CITIZENS ADDRESSING COUNCIL AGENCY OR AUTHORITIES BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE OR TELEPHONICALLY ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Submitted



Valerie A. Burrowes, City Clerk

Approved


Jimmie R. Yee, Mayor