



Office of the Mayor

ACTION CALENDAR

November 4, 2003

Date: October 19, 2003
To: Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Tom Bates *T. Bates*
Subject: ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR THE INVESTMENT OF CITY FUNDS IN YOUTH SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council 1) adopt the following priorities for the investment of City funds in youth services: Prenatal to 5; Coordinated and integrated family support services; Before and After School programming; Mentoring and Tutoring; and, Youth Safety; and 2) direct the City Manager to incorporate these youth services funding priorities into the process for community funding applications and departmental budget development.

BACKGROUND:

As we prepare for the next fiscal year, the Council needs to provide direction for the development of the City's 2004-2005 budget. In an effort to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the funding of our youth services, this particular recommendation will provide guidance for both city department budget development and the application process for city funding of community-based youth services.

Upon taking office, I asked the City Manager to conduct an "audit" of the youth-services funding. In addition to this request, I co-convened, with School Board President, Joaquin Rivera, the March 2003, Youth and Education Summit Kick-off. This event and the subsequent follow-up committee discussions, along with on-going department level discussions under the leadership of the City Manager's office, highlighted the following five priorities:

- Coordinated and integrated family support services;
- Prenatal to five years old services;
- Before and After School programming;
- Mentoring and Tutoring; and,
- Youth Safety

The message from the Summit participants and other community members is apparent: the City of Berkeley needs of a clearer focus in our investment in youth services. At this juncture, as we begin to prepare the city budget, it is crucial that the Council give direction to staff about the priorities that will guide the application process for community-based youth-serving agencies and city department budgets.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

No immediate fiscal impact at this time.

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