


Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
July 13, 2004

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Subject: Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Peace and Justice Commission to do research to determine the costs involved with hosting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition, and to identify the individuals and organizations willing to provide funds to co-sponsor the exhibit prior to Council consideration.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

At this time, the total amount to host the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition is unknown. The Peace and Justice Commission should do the necessary research on costs prior to Council consideration, and identify those individuals and organizations willing to provide funds to co-sponsor the exhibit.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Hosting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibit would be an honor for the City of Berkeley. However, given the City's current financial situation, it is not practical for the City to assume this financial burden. The City of Berkeley, like all California communities, faces serious budget problems. Bay Area cities have experienced significant revenue losses due to the slow national economy and cuts in state funding. Our costs are growing faster than our revenues. In FY 2005, the City of Berkeley has a \$10,000,000 deficit in its General Funds plus another \$3,000,000 shortfall in other funds including the Library and Parks funds. If Council decides to fund this request, a decision will need to be made as to which fund within the current budget the monies would come from.

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BACKGROUND

Without new revenues, the City of Berkeley must (and has) cut expenditures. In the past two years, the City has trimmed over \$6,000,000 from operating expenses. This has been difficult because City programs are valued and provide good quality services for the community. But now, we're in our third year of cuts and the easy decisions about what expenses to cut have been made in the prior two budget cycles. At this point, only the tough decisions remain.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Hosting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibit would indeed be an honor for the City of Berkeley. However, given the City's current financial situation, it is not practical for the City to assume this financial burden.

In its report, the Peace and Justice Commission indicated that there were individuals and organizations willing to provide funds to co-sponsor the exhibit. The Commission should contact those individuals and organizations to solicit the necessary funds for hosting the exhibit.

CONTACT PERSON

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Approved by:



Fred Medrano, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services