

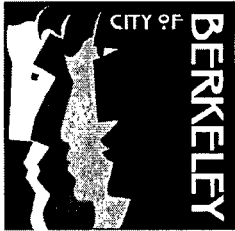
Office of the City Manager

## **TO BE DELIVERED AGENDA MATERIAL**

**Meeting Date:** November 27, 2007

**Item Number:** 28 d

**Item Description:** Public Commons for Everyone Initiative – d From: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission



Human Welfare and  
Community Action Commission

ACTION CALENDAR  
November 27, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission  
Submitted by: Angellique De Coud, Secretary, Human Welfare and Community Action Commission  
Subject: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission Input on Public Commons for Everyone Initiative (PCEI)

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Welfare and Community Action Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council support the City Manager's proposal to increase essential social services as well as changes in the enforcement of clearly defined rules that prohibit behavior that make members of the public feel unsafe or threatened.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

City Manager's Office staff presented information and sought Commissioner input at the October 30, 2007 Special Human Welfare and Community Action Commission meeting. At the meeting, the below proposals were discussed:

- 1) Increase parking meter fees,
- 2) Increase access and signage to bathrooms,
- 3) Change enforcement provisions,
  - a. Revise BMC 13.36.015 to cover all commercial zones and remove warning requirement,
  - b. Rescind a portion of Resolution 61,042 to allow for enforcement after one warning,
  - c. Adopt a local ordinance prohibiting public urination and defecation
  - d. Expand secondhand smoke restrictions.
- 4) Develop a social service component to include:
  - a. Expansion of YEAH Winter Shelter,
  - b. Development of a Peer Outreach Program,
  - c. Expansion of mental health outreach,
  - d. Creation of new permanent supportive housing.

The Human Welfare and Community Action Commission believes that access to more public restrooms is needed before any enforcement for public urination or defecation is implemented. The Commission is concerned that the changes in enforcement, which do not appear to require additional funding, will be made before the increases in essential services, which do require funding. Also, the Commission is concerned that enforcement provisions will not be further altered in any way that does not ensure that the civil liberties of the affected members of the public remain a paramount concern. Further, the social service component needs to be implemented prior to any changes in the enforcement of public behavior.

### BACKGROUND

On March 13, 2007, the Mayor and Council directed the City Manager to develop a comprehensive package of recommendations to implement the PCEI and return to Council on May 8, 2007. Included in the Council action, was a directive to seek input from the Homeless, Mental Health, and Human Welfare and Community Action Commissions.

On May 8, 2007 the Homeless Commission, Mental Health Commission and the Human Action and Welfare Commission submitted a report to the City Council recommending it direct staff to provide additional information in order for the Commissions to properly advise the Mayor and Council, allocate more money to a variety of needed services, consult with the Commissions throughout the development of staff recommendations for implementation, hold a joint meeting with the Homeless Commission, the Mental Health Commission, and the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission to discuss the PCEI and staff workplan, seek input and receive proposals from those most affected, and find a humane and positive way to promote health, safety, and accessibility throughout Berkeley while protecting human rights.

On June 12, 2007, the Mayor and Council directed the City Manager to further develop a set of recommendations to implement PCEI and return to Council on November 20, 2007. The City Manager was further directed to seek input from numerous commissions, including the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Human Welfare and Community Action Commission supports the development of a proposal to fund social services programs to address the housing and social services needs of individuals identified through PCEI. Therefore, the Commission supports, in concept, the City Manager's efforts to further develop the above proposals.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Rejection of the City Manager's proposals.

### CONTACT PERSON

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