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10 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
11 **Wednesday, March 16, 2011**  
12 Council Conference Room  
13 Palo Alto Civic Center  
14 250 Hamilton Avenue  
15 7:00 PM  
16 SPECIAL MEETING  
17  
18

19 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Bacchetti, Bernardo, Chen, Ezran, O’Nan, Savage, Verma  
20 **Council Liaison:** Gail Price **Staff:** Minka van der Zwaag, Debbie Park, Amy Johnson  
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22  
23 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**  
24

25 None  
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27  
28 **BUSINESS**  
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30 **1. REVIEW OF 2011-2013 HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROCESS**  
31 **(HSRAP) FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**  
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33 Commissioner Bacchetti briefly summarized the discussion from the previous meeting and  
34 commented that there was some ambivalence regarding the motion to accept the committee’s  
35 recommendation to cut 2.5% from the HSRAP funding in order to compensate for the budget cuts  
36 facing the Office of Human Services administrative budget. Although the motion passed  
37 unanimously at the previous meeting, the committee was instructed to meet again and come up with  
38 an alternate motion which did not include the 2.5% cut. Commissioner Bacchetti then summarized a  
39 new alternate option which reduces the cut to 1.5% and allocates the restored amount of \$8,920 to  
40 InnVision’s Hot Meal Program. Commissioner Bacchetti concluded by explaining that after  
41 reviewing all the applications for both HSRAP and CDBG, some agencies qualified for both funding  
42 programs, which was taken into consideration when making the recommendations as well as the  
43 addition of InnVision’s hot meal program to the list.  
44

45 Mr. Heiri Schuppisser, Outreach Worker at Momentum for Mental Health, thanked the committee  
46 for spreading the funding around the way they did, and recognizing that all agencies are doing good  
47 work.  
48

49 There was a discussion about how the two options would be presented to the Finance Committee.

50 Ms. van der Zwaag recommended that in the staff report she is preparing for Finance Committee she  
51 would present the previous option as the staff recommendation and the new second option presented  
52 tonight as the HRC option. The commissioners discussed and decided that the HRC did not agree  
53 with that decision and asked that both options presented to Finance Committee should show they are  
54 supported by the HRC, because they understand the current budget issues and want to support staff  
55 and City Council if cuts are deemed necessary to the HSRAP funding budget.

56  
57 **COMMISSIONER BACCHETTI MADE A MOTION RECOMMENDING THAT IF THE**  
58 **FINANCE COMMITTEE CAN FIND FUNDS FOR THE HUMAN SERVICES ADMIN**  
59 **BUDGET, THAT THE HRC STRONGLY RECOMMENDS OPTION #2 AS THE**  
60 **PREFERRED RECOMMENDATION, BUT, FAILING THAT, THE HRC WOULD**  
61 **RECOMMEND OPTION 1 AS AN ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION. SECONDED BY**  
62 **COMMISSIONER EZRAN, AYES: UNANIMOUS.**

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65 **2. DISCUSSION OF 2011-2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**  
66 **FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

67  
68 Commissioner Bacchetti introduced Suzanne Bayley, Interim CDBG Coordinator for the City of Palo  
69 Alto. She then introduced other staff members who assisted her in this year's CDBG process: Julie  
70 Caporgno, Chief Planning & Transportation Official and Steven Turner, Advance Planning Manager.  
71 Ms. Caporgno thanked the HRC for participating in the process this year and asked for suggestions to  
72 improve the process for next year.

73  
74 Ms. Bayley, briefly summarized the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and  
75 purpose: to provide decent housing; a suitable living environment; and expanded economic  
76 opportunities, principally for persons of low or moderate income. She also spoke about the annual  
77 entitlement funding, which must be spent in a timely manner, as well as the HUD eligibility  
78 requirements. She explained that next year's allocation is tied up in the congressional budget  
79 negotiations and we do not yet know the amount of the grant. An estimate, equal to last year's grant,  
80 has been used as a place holder and will be updated with the actual amount of the grant when it is  
81 known. The amounts of the proposed allocations will then be adjusted accordingly. The total allocation  
82 is estimated to be \$894,304. She spoke briefly about this year's process: Proposals went out on 11/4/10  
83 and were due back on 12/16/10. The recommendations are for a two-year funding cycle.

84  
85 Ms. Bayley also spoke about one project that has an eligibility issue that she is working to clarify with  
86 HUD and the applicants, which is the Friends of the Palo Alto Parks, "Magical Bridge" project.

87  
88 Commissioner Bacchetti spoke briefly about the recommendations and how the CDBG approval process  
89 follows that of HSRAP.

90  
91 Ms. Bayley commented that it was a difficult decision process with more applications than funding.  
92 There were no bad applications, only applications that were more in line with the Consolidated Plan  
93 priorities adopted by the City Council in May of 2010. She briefly summarized the proposed funding  
94 allocations by project, including the City's costs to administer the program.

95  
96 Public Comment

97 Ms. Mary Jane Parrine, spoke about the Catholic Charities Ombudsmen Program; they investigate  
98 housing complaints, make referrals to other non profit agencies, including unannounced visits. She

99 explained it is a unique program that works for the residents and is a free and confidential service.  
100 Ms. Olenka Villarreal, from the Friends of the Palo Alto Parks spoke about the Magical Bridge project.  
101 She explained that this park will serve children and adults with physical or cognitive disabilities. She  
102 thanked Suzanne Bayley and others for their support of the project and is looking forward to seeing the  
103 park built.

104  
105 Mr. Philip Dah, Director of the Opportunity Center spoke about the closing of Clara Mateo Shelter. He  
106 thanked staff and commissioners for the increased funding recommendation but also commented that  
107 with the loss of funding for the Clara Mateo Shelter, they are still in need of a lot more money to fund  
108 their programs.

109  
110 Mr. Bruce Heister, Community Working Group, explained that they acquired Alma Gardens which was  
111 built in the 1950's, and how it is in need of many upgrades.

112  
113 Mr. Bob Campbell, said that he was not recommended for funding and they serve low income seniors.  
114 He explained that in their program they purchase single family homes and provide shared housing for  
115 seniors. Currently they have 15 homes in the Santa Clara County but none in Palo Alto. He spoke about  
116 a Stanford fund that he will be looking into.

117  
118 Mr. Ben Kong, EHC Lifebuilders, explained that they provide shelter and supportive services to  
119 homeless individuals and that they were not recommended for funding, even though they are the only  
120 agency to provide shelter during cold weather and asked to be reconsidered for funding.

121  
122 Ms. Ann Marquart, Project Sentinel explained that they provide fair housing services to the City of Palo  
123 Alto by investigating housing complaints, provide workshops, which helps the city meet its  
124 requirements to provide fair housing. Their serve mostly disabled people, and families with children.

125  
126 Ms. Sandy Davis, Support Network explained that they serve individuals who are suffering from  
127 domestic violence by providing shelter and therapy to victims, especially for children since they often  
128 become repeat offenders or suffer psychological problems throughout their life.

129  
130 Ms. Eileen Richardson, Executive Director of the Downtown Streets Program. She thanked the city for  
131 the funding recommendation and is looking forward to starting a new program they have planned with  
132 Manpower.

133  
134 Commissioner Ezran asked Ms. Bayley about the stability of the funding recommendations since  
135 currently the budget is unclear. Ms. Bayley explained that the percentage will be the same when the  
136 actual numbers become available.

137  
138 Ms. Bayley was asked to clarify why 2 of the low income housing projects were not recommended for  
139 funding. She explained that it was because there was only so much money available. She has been  
140 working with HUD on the eligibility issues and will re-evaluate projects next year. She also mentioned  
141 that in the five-year consolidated plan it prioritizes low income housing and that they have caps on  
142 public service projects.

143  
144 **COMMISSIONER BERNARDO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE**  
145 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE AS PROVIDED, SECONDED BY**  
146 **COMMISSIONER VERMA, AYES: UNANIMOUS.**

147

148 Commissioner Ezran recognized everyone involved for all the effort made in reviewing and making  
149 these recommendations.

150

151 Commissioner Bernardo commented that it was a pleasure to be part of this process and she would like  
152 to make recommendations to the process for next time.

153

### 154 **3. YOUTH RECOGNITION UPDATE**

155

156 Commissioner Bacchetti asked for any updates, if any. Commissioner Chen reported that she attended  
157 the Youth Council meeting. They discussed the idea to have a certificate presented from City Council at  
158 a City Council meeting, but they had questions about how to form the selection committee and criteria.  
159 Commissioner Chen said she would like to take ideas back to the Youth Council.

160

161 Commissioner O’Nan suggested collaborating with PAUSD because they already have awards and  
162 know how to do this. She asked about the age range for the recipients and thought that all arts and  
163 science achievements should be included.

164

165 Commissioner Bacchetti asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to work on defining the  
166 framework and bring back to HRC at the next meeting. ]Amy, did anyone volunteer?]

167

168 Council Member Gail Price suggested using the City/School Liaison Committee as a sounding board or  
169 asking them to be part of the process.

170

171 Commissioner O’Nan asked that the definition of achievement not focus on GPA because there are kids  
172 who are struggling but have made achievements through great difficulty and whose parents are not  
173 highly educated or able to afford tutoring. She does not want to see only top performers receiving  
174 awards.

175

176 Commission Savage suggested that students from alternative high schools be considered as well.

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178

### 179 **4. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS**

180

#### **a. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

181

182 Commissioner Bacchetti spoke about attending a Kiwanis Club luncheon for a presentation of Camp  
183 Everytown. He also extended an invitation to anyone who might like to observe one of their future  
184 camp sessions on 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/21. The hours are approximately 3pm to midnight. He also reported  
185 that he been looking into the noise complaint from Mr. West by going on a ride-along with a PAPD  
186 officer and witnessed the area that was complained about. He agreed that is was noisy and so he is  
187 continuing to speak with PAPD on the issue. He also commented that the results of the survey regarding  
188 the assets will be out soon. He also reported that he and Commissioner Chen met with Avenidas staff to  
189 discuss intergenerational projects.

190

191 Commissioner Chen reported that she discussed intergenerational communication at the Youth Council  
192 and that the kids want more long-term volunteer opportunities.

193

194 Commissioner Savage reported that she and Commissioner Verma met with the Police Chief and  
195 discussed the Taser Policy, Racial Bias Policy and ways the HRC can help with community meetings.  
196 She also reported that she attended the Kiwanis luncheon regarding Camp Everytown and she agreed it

197 is a terrific program. She reported that at the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) meeting they discussed  
198 how they would handle future press releases.

199  
200 Commissioner Bacchetti commented on the CAG meeting that they had a thoughtful discussion  
201 regarding an initiative to provide support to PAPD officers who witness events that are troubling.  
202

203 Commissioner O’Nan reported on the Palo Alto Mediation Program meeting and she attended a  
204 speaking event regarding dealing with difficult people.  
205

206  
207 **b. COUNCIL BUDDY REPORT**

208  
209 **None**

210  
211 **c. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

212  
213 Councilmember Price said it was a pleasure to be here. She reported on the Policy and Services  
214 Committee meeting last week, that they are having an ongoing discussion regarding the development  
215 agreement with Stanford Hospital. They made a motion that 2 million dollars from the development  
216 agreement funding be designated toward youth well being projects including Project Safety Net. Also,  
217 they discussed creating a liaison position from City Council to Youth Council. She commented that the  
218 public private partnership will have to be more creative in finding ways to fund services. She also  
219 commented that it was disturbing to hear that the federal government is considering cutting funding.  
220

221  
222 **d. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

223  
224 Ms. van der Zwaag thanked everyone, especially those who participated on the funding committees.  
225 She reminded the commissioners that they need to complete Form 700 and send to City Clerk’s Office.  
226 She also spoke about the new Enjoy Catalog and highlighted that there are many openings in the  
227 summer camp programs. She reminded everyone that the Community Services Director, Mr. Greg Betts  
228 is still planning to have a speaker from Generations United give a presentation in his home and that the  
229 HRC commissioners are invited to attend.  
230

231 **Call for agenda items**

232 Presentation on survey results relating to 41 Developmental Assets  
233 Begin Human Needs Assessment  
234 Youth Recognition Proposal

235  
236 **ADJOURNMENT**

237 The meeting adjourned at: 8:47pm