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3 **SPECIAL MEETING**

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5 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

6 **Thursday, May 31, 2012**
7 Council Conference Room
8 Palo Alto Civic Center
9 250 Hamilton Avenue
10 7:00 PM

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14 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Ezran, O’Nan, Bacchetti, Morin, Savage, Verma, **Council**
15 **Liaison:** Karen Holman, **Staff:** Minka van der Zwaag, Debbie Park

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18 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

19 None

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21 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

22 None

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24 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

25 None

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28 **BUSINESS**

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30 **1. APPROVAL OF REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE PALO ALTO**
31 **CITY COUNCIL ON A HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT WITH SPECIAL**
32 **EMPHASIS ON THE HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROCESS**
33 **(HSRAP)**

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36 Public Comment:

37 Bill Blodgett, Board President, La Comida, spoke strongly supporting recommendation #1 on page 4 of
38 the draft and conveyed his concerns about the alternative recommendation.

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40 Mr. Blodgett said that while the idea of providing funding for new programs seems positive on the
41 surface, it is important to understand the impact of across the board decreases in funding for existing
42 programs.

44 In the case of La Comida, the City currently funds about 10% of overall program costs. La Comida's
45 contract with the County of Santa Clara, stipulates that at least 10% of funding must come from another
46 source, in this case, the City of Palo Alto. If the funding from City of Palo Alto is decreased by three to
47 five percent per year for five years, this could reduce La Comida's overall program funding by as much
48 as twenty five percent and compromise their contract with the County. This change would impact the
49 quality of the meals provided and the number of seniors they serve.

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51 Mr. Blodgett suggested that HSRAP review assess all programs, and make a good judgment as to which
52 programs serve most the critical needs in the city.

53
54 Commissions Discussion:

55 Commissioner Bacchetti led the discussion noting that the report is similar to the version reviewed at the
56 May 8, 2012 meeting. New sections have been added: Executive Summary, Palo Alto's Relationship to
57 County Programs, Topics for Further Study, Acknowledgements and New Appendix, and minor text
58 changes. The subcommittee hopes to achieve three things at this meeting: 1) make final additions and
59 edits; 2) acceptance of the report and; 3) agreement to forward it to the Finance Committee. He
60 suggested reviewing it page by page, emphasizing the new sections.

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62 The following is the review of the report page by page and the comments:

- 63 • Page 3, under **Community Profile**, Commissioner O'Nan commented that at the beginning, it
64 talks about low income residents in Palo Alto, and then shifts with no transition to the population
65 of aging and poverty rate for those over 65. It was clarified that the aging on the population
66 refers to the *overall* population.
- 67
68 • Page 4, under **Responding to Human Needs**, It was noted that it would be helpful to give a title
69 to this section to clarify what this section is about. Suggestion: Public-Private Partnership in
70 Responding to Human Needs.
- 71
72 • Page 5, under **Alternative Recommendation**, Alternative Recommendation:
73 A suggestion was made to add text at the end of the paragraph, *where HSRAP funding triggers*
74 *matching revenue, affected agencies can apply for an exception to the reduction in order to maintain the*
75 *match.*

76
77 In reference to the Alternative Recommendation, Council Member Holman made a suggestion for the
78 commission to explore a developer fee, as an idea for City to assess some percentage to City projects;
79 establish a threshold for a certain percentage for a project over a certain dollar amount.

80
81 Commissioner Bacchetti commented that if a recommendation to assess a developer fee is accepted,
82 additional money would not be a substitute for existing funds, but would be an additional fund. There
83 could be a conditional recommendation that current HSRAP funding would not be proportionally
84 reduced.

85
86 • Page 6, Recap the recommendations categories and synopsise the recommendation for each.
87 List and summarize all 9 sections.

88
89 • Page 11, second paragraph, **Graphs**,
90 There is an issue with the charts that will be straightened out.

- 91
92 • Page 12, under the **Public Assistance Programs**,

93 A comment was made suggesting adding information as to why CalWorks participation has declined. It
94 was mentioned that this could be because of the changes in eligibility such as how long a family can stay
95 on CalWorks.

96
97 • Page 24, under **Clothing**,
98 Where it lists suppliers for InnVision’s clothing, add *among others*.

99
100 • Page 31, under **Providers**,
101 At the end of Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA) offers range of legal services, add *including end*
102 *of life, incapacity planning, receipt of public benefits and financial matters*.

103
104 • Page 35, end of section on **Funding**,
105 Repeat the summary.

106
107 • Page 37, bottom
108 These are brief summaries summarizing executive summary.

109
110 • Page 40, Under new section, **Enrichment programs for children of low-income families and**
111 **for those with disabilities**. A comment was made that there are existing programs and the City
112 is currently spending money to enrich children through Palo Alto Community Child Care Center
113 (PACCC) but reaching not as many children and additional programs are needed.

114
115 • **Affordable Housing**, There is an issue in Palo Alto with affordable housing in that units are less
116 affordable than in the past to lower income residents because of economic downturn and lack of
117 job security. Proportion of income spent on housing has grown. When housing costs reach the
118 threshold of 50% of income it puts people at tremendous risk.

119
120 Councilmember Holman asked if the HRC has ever met with Palo Alto Housing Corporation. Palo Alto
121 Housing has supporting information on issues of affordable housing. Ms van der Zwaag will contact
122 Kate Young or Candace Gonzales of Palo Alto Housing Corporation for more information.

123
124 Commissioner Ezran made a comment regarding the In-Kind Subsidies whether other cities are doing
125 this. A comment was made that Human Services Needs Assessment sub-committee had explored the
126 idea and found that there are different arrangements with different non-profits. Examples are discounts
127 on utilities rates or free space or, in the case of PACCC, free space and the ability to lease some of it out
128 and receive the income.

129
130 In-kind subsidies being a topic for future studies, a question was asked whether anyone had taken a
131 systematic look to see whether this is a possible way of the city aiding non-profits that could be more
132 systematically applied, and made more available and better understood. There are no systematic data
133 on this. It was commented this is something worth looking at to see if it is more affordable to support
134 non-profits.

135
136 **Appendices**

137 In the Appendices, the only change requested was at the end of the Appendix C: cross out other
138 agreement section and add *Avendas is responsible for all the maintenance and upkeep of the facility at*
139 *an annual cost of approximately \$60,000. The City maintains the roof and exterior*.
140 It was noted that the same type of information from Palo Alto Community Child Care would be useful to
141 this appendix.

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The Human Services Needs Assessment Subcommittee will reconvene to make the suggested corrections. The report will then be submitted to the Finance Committee.

Commission took a vote and approved the report with all the agreed up changes by a vote of 6 to 0.

Chair Ezran thanked Commissioners Bacchetti, O’Nan and Verma, other commissioners and staff for their work on the report. He gave a special thank you to Commissioner Bacchetti for writing the report. Commissioner Savage seconded and commented that this was a great comprehensive report and a job well done.

Ms. van der Zwaag said as staff she was happy to work on the report and acknowledged the dedication of the HRC on this project.

Council Member Holman commented that the report is an excellent piece of work,hat it was comprehensive and fluid. She congratulated everyone who participated in it. Council Member Holman commented that an even broader scope question is in regards to the right funding percentage or right amount of funding for HSRAP services in this community. What should be the target? Is there a way to ascertain based on need here what the dollar amount or percentage of budget should be?

Commissioner Verma said the subcommittee looked at other cities. Bellevue, Washington, for example allocates about 5% of their budget towards human services grants.

Chair Ezran commented in reference to the right amount of funding that it is very difficult to come up with an answer. It takes a lot of resources to do such a study meaningfully, and one has to look not only at cities, but also at counties, state and federal government and compare economic factors. To do more extensive studies and comparison is beyond the scope of HRC and is very complex.

Council Member Holman asked, with budget concerns and staff reductions, what other ways can some of the participants in these services supplement what is being provided by other staff? Downtown Streets Team (DST), being an example, provides services that keep sidewalks clean otherwise it was not happening. This is a great way to leverage the dollars being provided to that organization. Another example is the Cubberley artists who are required to do other community projects.

In response to Council Member Holman’s suggestion about the non-profits getting involved, Commissioner Bacchetti said this is part of what is behind the Recommendation #2--are there things other agencies can do if they get together. Non-profits may be more energized if they can see themselves as a sector, not simply a collection of independent agencies that has working relationships with public sector. Are there things they can do to change the way things get done in Palo Alto? Council Holman commented it is empowering of individual and organizations as well.

Commissioner Bacchetti was asked to present the report to the Finance Committee on June 19, 2012. The presentation will take approximately 45 minutes at least;

- Presentation approx. 15 - 20 minutes
- Q&A about 25 minutes

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:
Council Liaison Reports Report:

190 Council Member Holman reported that the City Attorney will be training on Brown Act and board and
191 commission are invited. Ms. van der Zwaag to look into the date of the training
192

193 **Staff Liaison Report**

194 Ms. van der Zwaag made an announcement that the Social Service Agency in Mountain View will be
195 closing but relocating and aims to finding a location somewhere else in North County. This would be
196 good for people that HSRAP agencies serve.
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199 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

200 Agenda items for next meeting

- 201 • Review presentation of Human Services Needs Assessment to Finance Committee
- 202 • Approve mediators for the Palo Alto Mediation Program
- 203 • Update on World Music Day
- 204 • Discuss upcoming HRC Retreat
- 205 • Someone to give Presentation on proposed motion on Supreme Court decision on Constitutional
206 Amendment - Proposition is that to get a Constitutional Amendment that declares that
207 corporations are not persons.
- 208 • For July 12 HRC meeting, four commissioners will be present.
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211 **ADJOURNMENT**

212 The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.