

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 2, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Danielle Foster, Housing and Human Services Superintendent
Elvia Garcia-Ayala, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Resolution from Social Services Commission Opposing Budget Policies of the State of California Amounting to a Disinvestment in Our Future

Recommendation

This was an action item from the Social Services Commission meeting on February 8, 2010, staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Review the proposed resolution Opposing Budget Policies of the State of California Amounting to a Disinvestment in Our Future; and
2. According to City Council policy, this resolution will return to the City Council at their March 16, 2010 meeting for consideration and action.

Summary

At the Social Services Commission meeting in January 2010, the Commission discussed drafting a resolution for City Council's approval that could be sent to the state legislature in response to program cuts made over the past year and additional cuts being proposed in the Governor's draft budget that reduce programs serving children, youth, and the state's future. At that meeting, Commissioners agreed upon their desire to draft such a resolution and appointed a subcommittee of Commissioner Dan Wolk, Commissioner Eric Gelber, and Vice Chairperson George Hague to complete this task. The subcommittee's draft resolution was reviewed and unanimously supported by the Commission at their February 8, 2010 meeting.

Staff supports the resolution being recommended by the Social Services Commission, as cuts by the State have affected local and countywide programs that support early childhood development and education of youth through college.

The City Council's policy is to take one meeting for the reading and review of position resolutions and one meeting for action on the resolution, in order to ensure adequate noticing of the public. If approved by Council, the resolution would be forwarded to the Legislature contacts as noted in the last clause of the resolution.

Attachments

1. Proposed Resolution Opposing Budget Policies of the State of California Amounting to a Disinvestment in Our Future

RESOLUTION NO. 10-XXX, SERIES 2010

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING BUDGET POLICIES OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AMOUNTING TO A DISINVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE**

WHEREAS, past and pending reductions in federal, state and county funding have forced and would continue to force the City of Davis ("City") to reduce its child care programs, including reductions of subsidies to low income families; and

WHEREAS, partly as a result of these cutbacks, over 1,300 children, including over 300 in the City, are on a county-wide waiting list and remain unserved by much-needed child care subsidies; and

WHEREAS, such reductions exacerbate a situation already in crisis, inhibit parents from earning a stable and sufficient income in support of these children, inhibit parents from providing stable, safe, and sanitary housing for their children, and inhibit those children from benefiting from early childhood development; and

WHEREAS, child care is but one area in which children have been affected by reductions in state funding; and

WHEREAS, state budget cuts have required the Davis Joint Unified School District to expand class size, reduce programs, lay-off teachers, and shut down an elementary school; and

WHEREAS, state budget cuts have led the University of California at Davis, the economic and cultural lifeblood of our City, to increase tuition by 32 percent; and

WHEREAS, state and county cuts to health services, including mental health services, have harmed the well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed in his most recent budget proposal numerous measures that will severely impact children, youth, and low income families, including proposals to eliminate the Healthy Families program, which provides affordable health insurance to thousands of low income children in the state; reduce child care funding under the CalWORKS program or eliminate the program entirely; severely cut or eliminate the In-Home Supportive Services program, which enables many low-income parents to care for their children with disabilities at home; eliminate the Transitional Housing Placement Plus program, which provides affordable housing to youth aging out of foster care; and

WHEREAS, these funding reductions, by affecting the health and development of children and young adults, imperil our state's and community's ability to produce a new generation of leaders in all fields from business to science and government, let alone our ability to produce a new generation of healthy and educated adults; and

WHEREAS, education, health, and social services programs for children, young adults, and low-income individuals and families have disproportionately borne the brunt of recent budget reductions to address the state's budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, these funding reductions not only lower our ambition and expectations for the future,

they also bruise the values and reverse policies endorsed and enjoyed by Californians for almost a half century.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis asks the State Legislature and the Governor to prioritize the healthy development and education of our children by reversing this disinvestment in our future as they make their budget decisions this year and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis asks that the Legislature and Governor recognize that such prioritization means that revenue options must be considered as part of any comprehensive and equitable budget solution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the local representatives of the California State Senate and California State Assembly, the Assembly Speaker, Assembly Minority Leader, Senate President, the Senate Minority Leader and to the Governor. In addition, the resolution should be forwarded to the Chair and Vice Chair of the following Senate and Assembly Committees: Budget, Local Government, Education, Health, Higher Education, Human Services, and Revenue and Taxation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis on this 2nd day of March, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

Ruth Uy Asmundson Ph.D.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk