



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: APRIL 1, 2014
FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE WARDS: ALL
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY LIVABILITY TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVES

ISSUES:

The issues for City Council consideration are: 1) approval of the Community Livability Task Force Action Plan; and 2) authorize a supplemental appropriation from the General Fund reserves in the amount of \$636,465 for Fiscal Year 2013/14.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the Community Livability Task Force Action Plan;
2. Approve the total Action Plan budget of \$3,142,233 for implementation and operation through June 30, 2015;
3. Authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$636,465 for Fiscal Year 2013/14; and
4. Direct staff to return in six months with a progress report.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last several years, Riverside residents, staff and elected officials have perceived an increase in criminal and nuisance activities that impact the City's quality of life. This includes aggressive panhandling, vagrancy, unpermitted camping, vandalism, illegal vendors, abandoned property and the like. In order to address this situation, the City Manager's Office has pulled together an internal task force including the City Attorney's Office and all City departments with responsibility for the enforcement of livability laws and the maintenance of city facilities. This Community Livability Task Force was charged with reviewing existing City ordinances and establishing a roster of enhanced staffing to bring about visible and sustained change. A complimentary component is additional outreach and education to bring about a culture change. The attached Action Plan is the culmination of this process and outlines the necessary steps for implementation, measurement and reporting in order to effectuate lasting change. It should be noted that this Plan focuses on people who violate laws or ordinances and aims to deter criminal and nuisance activities by enforcing the City's laws and ordinances.

The Task Force reviewed the City’s comprehensive set of Community Livability Laws in place addressing issues such as aggressive solicitation, loitering, conduct on public property, trespassing, possession of open alcoholic beverages, littering, graffiti and damaging public property, among others. In reviewing these laws and examining regulations the Task Force identified the following enhancements for consideration:

Alcohol Sales Restrictions. Planning Division staff are drafting amendments to the City’s alcohol sales laws to implement standards for existing businesses that sell alcohol for off-premises consumption and to establish a process for revocation of permits when these standards are violated. The standards will address conditions such as litter, graffiti, loitering, visibility into the premises, etc. It is anticipated that this item will be presented for consideration by the Planning Commission on May 8, 2014.

Laura’s Law. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002, also known as Laura’s Law, allows a court to order a person to obtain assisted outpatient mental health treatment if the court finds by clear and convincing clinical evidence that a mentally ill adult has a history of recent lack of compliance with treatment and is unlikely to survive in the community without supervision. The law is very detailed in its requirements and would require that the County take the lead in implementing and providing services.

With the ordinances and laws in place to address the livability issues, the need then turns to the resources to enforce the regulations and additional programming initiatives. In order to fully fund the initiatives outlined in the Action Plan, the following funding will be needed for the first year of operation:

| <u>Department</u> | <u>FY 13/14</u> | <u>FY 14/15</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Riverside Police Department | \$ 421,304 | \$ 1,685,215 |
| Community Development Department | \$ 85,211 | \$ 313,753 |
| Parks Recreation & Community Services | \$ 70,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| City Attorney’s Office | \$ 50,000 | \$ 275,000 |
| Public Works Department | \$ 7,950 | \$ 31,800 |
| Marketing | \$ 2,000 | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL | \$ 636,465 | \$ 2,505,768 |

It is recommended that a non-departmental budget section be established for the Community Livability Program with line item funding for each department. This will allow for tracking of the costs of the overall initiative and will also keep the funds separate from regular departmental operations.

In addition to City efforts, a partnership with the County of Riverside is necessary to provide the needed County services as follows:

- A Clinical Therapist to work with Riverside Police Department;
- A full-time Behavioral Health Specialist to partner with the City’s Homeless Outreach Team;
- A resolution authorizing Laura’s Law within Riverside County and provide appropriate resources to the Riverside County Department of Mental Healthy (RCDMH) for implementation; and
- Engagement of the Environmental Health Department to study the issue of public feedings and determine the appropriate methods to ensure that all food is safe for consumption.

The Task Force is confident that by providing the resources, programs and initiative described in the Action Plan visible changes will be realized as it relates to addressing the Community Livability issues within the City. Staff will provide a progress report to the City Council in six months as it relates to the effectiveness of the Action Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost to implement the Action Plan is \$3,142,233 - \$636,465 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013/14 and \$2,505,768 for Fiscal Year 2014/15. There are sufficient funds in the General Fund reserves.

The current estimated year-end General Fund reserve balance is \$35,488,118; this is \$3,975,002 less than the actual reserve balance as of July 1, 2013. The proposed action in this report will further reduce the estimated balance to \$34,851,653 as of June 30, 2014, which is a 15% General Fund reserve balance.

If approved by the City Council, the required funding to implement the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/15 will be included in the proposed budget that will be brought forward in May/June as a draw from the General Fund reserves. It is important to note that by committing City funds to this Action Plan now, the City Manager and Finance Director strongly recommend that the City Council not make any further requests from the General Fund reserve balance for the current and following fiscal year.

Taking into consideration the estimated June 30, 2014, General Fund reserve balance and committing to no further appropriation requests made in the next 15 months, the proposed action will further reduce the General Fund reserve balance to \$32,345,885, as of June 30, 2015. This is an estimated General Fund reserve of 14%, which is below the City's policy of maintaining a 15% General Fund reserve balance.

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Certified as to
availability of funds: Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer

Approved by: Scott C. Barber, City Manager

Approved as to form: Gregory P. Priamos, City Attorney

Attachment:
1. Community Livability Task Force Action Plan