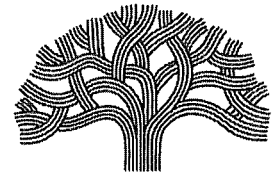


FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2016 FEB 25 PM 3:07



CITY OF OAKLAND

CITY HALL ■ 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, 2nd Floor ■ OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Honorable Lynette Gibson McElhaney
President of the City Council, District 3

LMcElhaney@Oaklandnet.com

Honorable Annie Campbell Washington
Vice Mayor, District 4

ACampbellWashington@Oaklandnet.com

Honorable Abel Guillén
District 2

AGuillen@Oaklandnet.com

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016

To: Members of the City Council
Dan Kalb
Desley Brooks
President Pro Tempore Larry Reid
Rebecca Kaplan
Noel Gallo

Cc: Sabrina Landreth, City Administrator
Claudia Cappio, Assistant City Administrator

Re: Resolution in Support of Increasing SSP

Dear Members of the City Council:

We urge you to join us in supporting all efforts in the state legislature to increase funding for the State Supplementary Payment program to help eligible recipients live above the poverty level.

The Supplemental Security Income program is a federally funded program which provides income support to individuals who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled. The SSP Program is the state program which augments SSI which the State began to tragically underfund as a cost savings measure during the great recession. It's time to restore and increase funding so that our most vulnerable citizens are able to meet their most basic needs.

As of the beginning of this year, there were 22,674 residents in Oakland living on SSI and SSP. At current rates, SSI/SSP provides only 90.7% of the minimum financial need to avoid poverty. SSI/SSP recipients, by definition, are unable to work due to disability, and are thus unable to close the financial gap they face each month leaving thousands of Oaklanders disabled *and destitute*.

Please join us in providing Oakland's official support for increasing the SSP payment so that our blind or disabled seniors are not forced to live in poverty.



RULES & LEGISLATION CMTTE

MAR 03 2016



FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2016 FEB 25 PM 2: 50

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY AND
VICE MAYOR ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALL EFFORTS BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO INCREASE SSP PAYMENTS TO MEET OR EXCEED THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL FOR ELDERLY, BLIND OR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

WHEREAS, the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) program assists blind, disabled, and elderly individuals and supplements the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program; and

WHEREAS, State Supplemental Payment amounts are adjusted based on living arrangement, marital status, status as a minor, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, the current State Supplemental Payment amount has not kept pace with the increased cost of living, including such items as housing, food, health care, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the State Supplemental Payment amounts were reduced substantially during and following the Great Recession from \$233 per month to \$156 per month for individuals – the minimum allowed by federal law; and

WHEREAS, the pre-recession maximum SSI/SSP grant amount for individuals was at 100% of the federal poverty level and the current maximum SSI/SSP grant amount is at 90.6% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the State Supplemental Payment (SSP) has not been provided since the Fiscal Year 2009-10 State Budget; and

WHEREAS, SSI/SSP recipients are not eligible for CalFresh (food stamps) in California; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who depend on this grant as a source of income cannot meet their basic needs and are forced to make painful decisions regarding paying rent and utilities, purchasing food, or medical supplies not covered by health insurance; and

6
RULES & LEGISLATION CMTTE
MAR 03 2016

WHEREAS, as of January 2016, there were 22,674 individuals in the City of Oakland depending on the State Supplemental Payment program which is equivalent to almost one in five residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That City of Oakland hereby includes its support of the State of California Legislators and Governor to increase the State Supplementary Payment amounts to meet or exceed the federal poverty level to elderly, blind, and/or disabled individuals to be readjusted and increased annually.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND
PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California

b
RULES & LEGISLATION CMTTE