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Office of the City Administrator
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May 24, 2005

Life Enrichment Committee
Oakland, CA

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

RE: *Follow Up Report on the Status of the Health and Human Services Commission and Recommendation to Adopt an Ordinance Discontinuing the Health and Human Services Commission Pursuant to Article VI of the City Charter*

At the Life Enrichment Committee meeting of March 8, 2005, the Committee directed staff to meet with members of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to discuss the disposition of the Commission given the concerns presented by Commissioners in their report.

I met with members of the Commission on April 20, 2005, to discuss their concerns and recommendations regarding the future of the Commission. Commissioners made it very clear they support the City having a body that can address the critical health issues facing our City, especially health disparities, and they remain willing to assist. However, *without dedicated funding or staffing, it is not feasible for them to be effective.* They made it clear they did not hold the Department of Human Services or any other City entity responsible for their constraints but rather feel the nature of the work requires dedicated resources.

I expressed to the Commissioners my understanding of their plight and my enormous appreciation for their talents, skills and dedication. However, given the current financial climate in the City, no new funding focusing on health was currently proposed. Furthermore, if new funding were made available, I would recommend the Commission be given a more specific focus since the topic of health is overly diffuse and frequently beyond the City's purview. And many of the Commission's other priority areas are now handled by other Boards and Commissions, such as AIDS work by the Mayor's

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Commission on Persons with Disabilities, homeless services by the Continuum of Care Council, poverty related issues by the Community Action Partnership Board, and child care by the County's Child Care Planning Council and Head Start's Advisory Panel.


Given the City Council's current goals and priorities and absent any new funding, I recommend that for the immediate future, the Health and Human Services Commission be discontinued. I recommend these dedicated individuals be used on alternate but related Boards and Commissions as they may desire. A few Commissioners have already taken advantage of other Board vacancies. Furthermore, as specific health topics emerge, the City in collaboration with Alameda County may explore ways to convene ad hoc citizen bodies that can support work in this area. In the meantime, DHS collaborates with Alameda County on many health-related projects and DHS will identify ways in which former Commissioners may be involved.

I want to thank the Commissioners for their hard work and dedication.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends City Council adopt an ordinance discontinuing the Health and Human Services Commission pursuant to Article VI of the City Charter.

Respectfully submitted,


Deborah Edgerly
City Administrator



CITY ATTORNEY
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____ 2005 MAY 11 PM 12: 33
C.M.S.

AN ORDINANCE DISCONTINUING THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI OF THE CITY CHARTER

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Commission was created by Ordinance No. 11996 C. M. S., passed by the City Council on July 22, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the duties and functions of the Health and Human Services Commission as originally envisioned have been assumed by, and are currently performed by various other Boards and Commissions, such as AIDS work by the Mayor’s Commission on Persons with Disabilities, homeless services by the Continuum of Care Council, poverty related issues by the Community Action Partnership Board, and child care by the County’s Child Care Planning Council and Head Start’s Advisory Panel; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no dedicated funds or staffing for the Health and Human Services Commission that would enable it to effectively address health-related issues that are not covered by another Boards or Commissions; and

WHEREAS, after several meetings with the Department of Human Services staff and the City Administrator, the Health and Human Services Commission reached the conclusion it cannot be effective without an allocation of dedicated resources;

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Pursuant to Section 602 of the Charter, the Health and Human Services Commission of the City of Oakland is hereby discontinued. Nothing herein shall affect the validity or enforceability of any legislation, bond, contract, or other obligation heretofore enacted or entered into for, or on behalf of, the City by the Health and Human Services Commission. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2005
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-
ABSENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California



**ORDINANCE DISCONTINUING THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI OF THE CITY CHARTER**

NOTICE AND DIGEST

This ordinance discontinues the Health and Human Services Commission which was created to assume those powers, duties and functions previously exercised by the Commission on Homelessness, the Health Commission and the Child Care Advisory Commission, including advising the Mayor and Council on a wide variety of social programs and issues such as health care, HIV/AIDS services, homelessness, education, disease prevention, domestic violence prevention, child care and other related topics.