

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: June 14, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:01 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:22 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Greg Bowes, Chair

Patrice Abdullah

Rozelle Boyd

James Bradford

Ginny Cain

Susie Day

Joanne Sanders

ABSENT

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 324, 2006 - approves a transfer of \$150,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home (County General Fund) to pay costs associated with privatizing the food service program

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

Community Affairs Committee

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, June 14, 2006. Chair Greg Bowes called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullallah, Rozelle Boyd, James Bradford, Ginny Cain, Susie Day, and Joanne Sanders.

PROPOSAL NO. 324, 2006 - approves a transfer of \$150,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home (County General Fund) to pay costs associated with privatizing the food service program

Rose Butler, Director of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home stated that in January 2006, the Guardian Home started with Aramark as the food service provider and now the Home needs to transfer funds between characters so that payment can be made.

Chair Bowes asked how much has been saved and if everyone is happy with the food. Ms. Butler stated that it is over \$40,000 a year in savings, and overall they are fairly satisfied.

Councillor Abdullallah asked why it became necessary to privatize the food service program. Ms. Butler stated that City Purchasing and the Controller's office asked the Home to consider privatizing. She stated that there are negotiations with the juvenile center to privatize their food service also.

Councillor Boyd asked if this was going to affect the total budget. Ms. Butler answered in the negative stating that it is simply a transfer of funds.

Councillor Bradford stated that this is a good idea, because some non-profit organizations struggle a lot with having food services. He said the Guardian Home is in the business of taking care of children and is concentrating on what the community is asking them to do.

Councillor Abdullallah asked if the competitive bidding process really allows everyone to place a bid for the contract. Ms. Butler stated that the purchasing department has procedures that they follow, and they went through them.

Councillor Sanders moved, seconded by Councillor Cain, to send Proposal No. 324, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Butler went on to explain a handout which is attached as Exhibit A. She stated that one of her goals as director is to put together an advisory committee to assist the Guardian Home in meeting the needs of the community. Ms. Butler stated that she has been to the Marion County Commissioners, who oversee the Guardian Home and asked if there was a possibility to have a Guardian Home Advisory Committee. She stated that one of the goals would be to discuss the needs of the home and to see where there are weaknesses and challenges, and how those needs can be met. Currently, representatives from Marion County Department of Children's Services (MCDCS), Juvenile Probation, Lutherwood, CAPP, and the Children's Bureau have agreed to sit on the committee. The Home is waiting for the commissioners to approve or deny the request.

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Councillor Boyd asked if the appointing authority will be the commissioners and if there will be a layout of the parameters of the operations. Ms. Butler answered in the affirmative.

Chair Bowes asked if the infant facility is being utilized and if there has been a change. Ms. Butler stated that there has not been any change and it is being used.

Councillor Sanders asked if any of the repairs that were required have been completed. Ms. Butler stated that she is waiting on an estimate for roof repair because of a new leak that was found. She also stated that the basement, boiler room, renovating the gymnasium, and fixing the windows are some of the repairs that the Home is working on.

Councillor Sanders asked if there were any particular needs that the Home has at this time. Ms. Butler stated that all donations made to the Guardian Home are tax deductible and can be put to whatever use the donor would like. She stated that there is a wish list of items that the home needs. She also stated that Kiwanis and a Girls Scout troop came and donated around 400 backpacks filled with personal care items.

Councillor Sanders asked if someone wanted to make a monetary donation, to whom should that individual address it. Ms. Butler stated that they should make it out to Marion County Children's Home.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bowes, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

GB/lw