
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2003

TO: Council Members

FROM: Marge Harvey

SUBJECT: Proposed City Council Resolution

CC: Rocky Fluhart, Dave Nimkin, DJ Baxter, Ed Rutan, Stephen Allred, Chief Rick Dinse, Rick Graham, Kevin Bergstrom, Alison Weyher, David Dobbins, Louis Zunguze, Luann Clark, David Oka, Valda Tarbett, Janice Jardine, Russell Weeks, Sylvia Jones, Gwen Springmeyer

Earlier this year, the Mayor signed a Declaration of Intent in conjunction with a statement by homeless service providers as part of a Common Ground Initiative. The intent of this initiative is to ensure that the homeless service providers and facilities will remain undisturbed in the Rio Grande neighborhood.

A draft of a City Council Resolution for your consideration is attached. It supports and expands on the statements made in the Common Ground initiative. Below are summaries of the elements in the Common Ground Initiative and also the proposed City Council Resolution.

Common Ground Initiative:

Statement of Homeless Service Providers:

- a) Maintain the current co-location of human services in the Rio Grande area.
- b) A human service presence in the downtown area is vital to serve those in need in Salt Lake City.
- c) People should be able to receive food, shelter, clothing, child care, medical, dental and mental health assistance in one neighborhood without having to travel throughout the valley.
- d) Homeless service providers have a proven track record of being good neighbors to residents and businesses.
- e) The Rio Grande neighborhood has shown that upper, moderate and low income residents can live and work together.
- f) Intentional planning and development efforts should be designed and implemented to integrate new investment and activity into the community without forcing out the homeless and those who serve them.

Declaration of Intent:

- a) Salt Lake City is committed to support the comprehensive mix of social services in the Rio Grande Community.
- b) The City declares its intention to support the collaborative, professional social service community that exists in this area as new investments in business, housing and public infrastructure continue.
- c) It is the intention of this Administration to make decisions that strive to support and enhance the sustained diversity of this community.

Draft City Council Resolution:

- a) Endorses the Common Ground statement and principles.
- b) Urges an integrated planning process that looks at the area as a whole and not separate parts.
- c) Supports development in the area that is beneficial to all and does not harm one in favor of another.
- d) Seeks solutions based on the traditional character and use of the area without replacing it with something different or unrelated.
- e) Encourages those engaged in discussions of the future of the area to do so in a fair, equitable and open-minded manner.
- f) Encourages the development of permanent, affordable housing for low income and very low income people in the area to reduce the demand on existing services for the homeless.
- g) Advocates the hiring of homeless residents of the neighborhood by businesses in the area and establishing supportive programs to facilitate these opportunities.
- h) Encourages the Salt Lake City Police Department to act to maintain the safety of all residents and visitors without denying the basic rights of the homeless.

Other:

The draft resolution provided by the advocacy group contains language in opposition to using private security firms. This language has been italicized in your copy. The Council may wish to exclude this language because it is such a specific operational issue.
