

PROGRESS REPORT
on the work of the
LOS ANGELES CITY
TASK FORCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY

Spectrum Institute
P.O. Box 65756
Los Angeles, CA 90065
(213) 258-8955, ext. 707

May 11, 1992

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

This report contains an update on the operations of, and progress made by, the Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity. The Task Force conducted the largest and most comprehensive policy study on family issues done by any municipality in the nation. The *Final Report* of the Task Force did not sit on a shelf and collect dust when the study was completed. Hundreds of reports were distributed to elected and appointed officials, private-sector officials, community leaders, and citizens. Many of its recommendations have been successfully implemented. Progress is being made on others. Implementation efforts were spearheaded and coordinated by the Family Diversity Project of *Spectrum Institute*.

DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

The *Final Report* of the Task Force was first released on May 18, 1988. The Task Force distributed about 400 reports in 1988. Since then, Spectrum Institute has been the primary distributing agency. We have distributed an additional 350 reports over the past three years.

A press conference was held on May 18, 1988, and the first reports were distributed to the media. GTE California hosted a reception that evening which was attended by 200 people, all of whom received a copy of the report, including business leaders, religious leaders, political representatives, and community activists.

The next day, reports were given to the City Council along with a short presentation. The City Council issued decorative certificates of commendation to the major donors to the project.

By August, 1988, reports were distributed to government officials, libraries, religious organizations, civil rights groups, service providers, educators, and others. [See "Report Distribution (8-11-88) which is attached.]

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Leadership Briefings. The first part of the implementation program was to brief political and community leaders about changes in family life, the needs of contemporary families, and bring their attention to some of the recommendations of the Task Force. We spoke to dozens of leaders. [See "Leadership Briefings" (8-11-88) which is attached.]

Prodding City Agencies. Next, we had Mayor Bradley send a letter to each city agency to which a recommendation had been directed. This stimulated dialogue within these agencies. Attached are copies of the Mayor's letter to each agency and their responses. Some good things happened as a result of this soft pressure.

Seniors Issues. The Department of Aging endorsed all of our recommendations and incorporated many into their ongoing programs. [See List of "Recommendations Affecting Seniors" which is attached.] Because the report of the Task Force had a broad scope and was because recommendations were not limited to special interest groups, leaders of the Task Force were invited to make presentations to many community groups, such as the Interfaith Coalition on Aging. Although the presentation to that organization was focused on seniors issues, concerns of other constituencies were incorporated into the program, e.g., the concerns of working mothers, the problems of school-age youth, discrimination against lesbians and gay men, etc. The presentation to this group was well received. [See Letter of October 3, 1988, which is attached.]

County Commissions. Although this was a city commission, we enlisted the help of the County Commission on Human Relations to distribute copies of the report to each member of the County Women's Commission and the County Commission on Disabilities. [See correspondence from the County Commission on Human Relations which is attached.]

School District. We did a tremendous amount of work with the Los Angeles Unified School District. We started our work with the Commission on Sex Equity (25 members dedicated to eliminating sex discrimination in the school system.) They helped us arrange a joint meeting with all of the Education Commissions, e.g. American Indian Commission, Asian/Pacific Commission, Black Commission, Mexican American Commission, and Special Education Commission. This was the first time that all of the commissions had a joint meeting. More than 100 commissioners attended the meeting. We followed up with a survey of the commissioners about their support for the educational recommendations of the Task Force. About 50 commissioners responded. All of the education commissioners became better educated about the concerns of lesbian and gay youth as they were being educated about teen fathers, pregnant young women, gangs, etc. In other words, we worked the gay and lesbian issues into the fabric of the larger agenda. [See correspondence with the Los Angeles Unified School District, which is attached.]

Gay and Lesbian Education Commission. Our work and the follow up work of others paid off. The school system recently created a Gay and Lesbian Education Commission. The report of the Family Diversity Task Force was used to document the need for such a commission. [See letter of Councilman Mike Hernandez to School Board Members, which is attached.]

Domestic Partnership Benefits. The Task Force on Family Diversity recommended that the city of Los Angeles grant sick and bereavement leave to city employees with domestic partners. The City Council agreed, but the unions resisted. After the Task Force disbanded, the job of working with the city and the unions was assumed by the Family Diversity Project of Spectrum Institute. We worked for three years until two unions finally incorporated the proposal into their contracts. Unions representing more than 15,000 city workers now offer this domestic partner option to their workers. Councilman Woo has recently introduced a motion to amend the city's Administrative Code to provide coverage for city employees who are not represented by unions. [See copy of motion, attached.]

City Contractor Law. The city requires businesses that have city contracts to adopt nondiscrimination policies. The city contractor law was amended, at the suggestion of the Task Force, to include sexual orientation. There is still a big loophole to be closed, namely, discrimination on the basis of marital status. Councilman Mike Woo has introduced a motion which could provide some protection for private-sector workers with domestic partners. [See letter from Mike Woo, press release, and copy of motion, which is attached.]

Education of Candidates. The Municipal Election Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) is a political action committee supporting candidates who demonstrate leadership on gay and lesbian issues and women's issues. MECLA has traditionally quizzed candidates who seek their endorsement. The questioning was often very shallow, e.g., "Will you support gay rights?" MECLA now uses the recommendations of the Family Diversity Task Force in its interview process. Candidates are sent a list of dozens of recommendations affecting gays and lesbians. They are asked if they support, oppose, or are uncertain in their positions on these specific issues. This has helped educate candidates and elected officials and has professionalized the interview process. [See "Candidate Questionnaire" which is attached.]

This update has focused on only a few of the 110 recommendations made by the Task Force. Time does not permit a full exposition of the progress made in the implementation phase of the project.

REPLICATION

The report of the Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity was used extensively by the California Legislature's Task Force on the Changing Family. The state task force made many recommendations favorable to domestic partners.

Before Art Agnos was elected Mayor of San Francisco, we approached him, gave him a copy of the Los Angeles report, and urged him to create a similar study in San Francisco. He eventually convened the Mayor's Task Force on Family Policy. That report documented the need for domestic partnership benefits and made other recommendations to assist families in general. As you know, San Francisco now provides a wide range of benefits to employees with domestic partners.

Spectrum Institute also has assisted the Human Relations Commission of the City of Long Beach to conduct a Family Diversity Project. Public hearings were held. Many recommendations were proposed. [See Long Beach Report which is enclosed.] One recommendation was that the city conduct a survey of its own employees to see what types of families they have and what their needs are. The survey has been done and it included a question about domestic partners. The city council has been holding hearings to determine the feasibility and desirability of implementing each of the study's recommendations.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

The following is a list of donations received by the Institute for the Study of Human Resources (ISHR) on behalf of the Family Diversity Task Force. ISHR was the fiscal agent for this project.

CASH DONATIONS:

GTE California	1,200
MECLA Foundation	5,000
Pacific Bell	5,000
LEDLER Foundation	15,000
Richard Dennis	6,000
Rev. Oliver Garver	3,000
Rebecca Tapia	500
TOTAL:	35,700

The cash donations were all spent on paying for the services of a special consultant. The consultant served as the only staff to this project. He performed services on the project over a period of 32 months (starting with recruitment of members in October 1985 through issuance of the report in May 1988). His average monthly earnings were \$1,115.62. Because of deficit at the end of the project, he waived compensation for more than \$10,000 of his services. He performed the following services for the Task Force:

- recruitment/appointment/orientation of 38 members
- supervising student interns: 12 law, 2 psychology, 4 sociology
- recruit, interview 50 witnesses and conduct public hearings
- edit public hearing transcript
- edit student research papers
- edit research papers of task force members
- conduct independent research and write final report
- distribute report, meetings with community leaders
- begin implementation of recommendations

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

Meeting Space provided by: USC Law Center, City of LA, Cal State, First Presbyterian Church

Photocopying done by: City of Los Angeles, LEDLER Foundation

Student Interns: USC Law Center, California School of Professional Psychology, California State University School of Sociology

Miscellaneous Supplies: So. Cal. Gas Company

Long Distance Phone Calls: LEDLER Foundation

Typesetting and Printing Final Report: GTE California

Printing Supplements and Public Hearing Transcript: GTE California

Reception at Conclusion of Study: GTE California

FAMILY DIVERSITY PROJECT -- Report Distribution (8-11-88)

Government Officials and Agencies

Mayor Tom Bradley and key staffers

Los Angeles City Council -- all members

Los Angeles City Attorney James Hahn

Los Angeles City Controller Rick Tuttle

Los Angeles City Commissions -- all 30 commission presidents

Los Angeles City Departments -- all 20 general managers

Steve Peace, State Assemblyman

Assemblyman Tom Bates

Senator Diane Watson

Senator Newton Russell

California Legislature's Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family -- all 30 members and staffers

Pat Benson, staffer to Congressman Hawkins

Walter Backstrom, staffer to Senator Bill Greene

Anna Gonzales, staffer to Senator Diane Watson

Osias Goren, State Fair Employment and Housing Commission

Frankie Greenberg, staffer to Senator David Roberti

Jeannie Gregory, staffer to Senator Art Torres

Laura Jeon, staffer to Assemblywoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

Derrick Mims, staffer to Congressman Hawkins

Kay Van Horn, staffer to Congressman Beilenson

Gill Saldana, staffer to Senator Alan Cranston

Nina Sorkin, L.A. City Commission on the Status of Women

Betsy Reifsnider, staffer to Councilwoman Ruth Galanter
Rodney Punt, General Manager, City Cultural Affairs Department
Keith Malone, staffer to Assemblyman Polanco
Helen Maxwell, McClaren Children's Center
Jim LaMaida, County Department of Children's Services
Patsy Lane, Child Care Coordinator, City of Los Angeles
County Human Relations Commission -- all members and staffers
City Human Relations Commission -- all members and staffers
Susan Kerr, County Adult Protective Services
Lt. Steve Day, Los Angeles Police Department
Sgt. Dallas Binger, L.A.P.D. Juvenile Division
Det. James Brown, L.A.P.D. Child Abuse Unit
Eileen Cassidy, Area 10 Board, Developmental Disabilities
Bruce Coplen, Deputy L.A. City Attorney, Youth Gang Unit
Seattle Mayor's Lesbian and Gay Task Force
Seattle Office for Women's Rights

Libraries

Los Angeles City Libraries -- main and 8 branches
Los Angeles County Law Library
New York Law School

Organizations -- Religious

Shar Gamboa, First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood

Rev. Phillip Lance, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Bishop Oliver Garver, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Father James Fleck, Roman Catholic Priest

Rev. Harry Durkee, Hollywood Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Warner Traynham, St. John's Episcopal Church

Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles -- 20 copies for board members

Organizations -- Labor

City Employee Unions -- all 22 union general managers

Organizations -- Political and Civil Rights

Municipal Elections Committee of L.A. -- all 26 board members

Gloria Rubio, Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund

Community Relations Conference of Southern California -- all 90 member organizations.

Jean Conger, Southern California Women for Understanding

National Lambda Civil Rights Roundtable -- all 50 members

Lambda Lawyers of Los Angeles -- all 20 participants

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, New York

Organizations -- Media

Los Angeles Herald Examiner

Los Angeles Daily Journal

Julie Jaskol, National Media Inc.

Niles Merton, Publisher of the Advocate

Los Angeles Times -- 25 staff writers

Gay Media -- 15 gay newspapers

Organizations -- Service Providers

Diana M. Bonta, Family Planning Council of Los Angeles

Dr. Evelyn Clark, Multi-Service Family Center

Yasuko Sakamoto, Little Tokyo Services Center

Frank Smail, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Eric Rofes, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center

Pat Parsell, United Way

Tom Fulton, United Way of Orange County

Betty Bell, Child Abuse Prevention Training Center

Jamil Berger, Houth of Ruth

Organizations -- Professional

Dr. Jay Westbrook, American Society on Aging

William Weinberger, Lawyers for Human Rights

Gay and Lesbian Deputy City Attorney's Assn. -- 8 copies

Organizations -- Educational

San Gabriel High School Study Body Association

Commission on Sex Equity, Los Angeles Unified School District

Roslyn Cooperman, California Coalition for Public Education

Virginia Uribe, Project 10, Fairfax High

Henry Talbert, International Institute

Dr. Cornell Persico, California School of Professional Psychology

Dr. Zane Meckler, Fairfax High School

Dr. Allan Heskin, UCLA School of Architecture and Planning

Prof. Rodney Hoffman, Occidental College

Roslyn Cooperman, California Coalition for Public Education

Organizations -- Business

Dennis Perkins, Consumer Affairs Manager, GTE California

Larry Mobbs, External Affairs, Pacific Bell

Rita Moya, Director of External Affairs, GTE California

Raul Garza, Public Relations, A. T. & T.

Priscilla Karratti, Forest Lawn Cemeteries

FAMILY DIVERSITY PROJECT: Leadership Briefings (8-11-88)

Government Officials

Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles.

Rick Tuttle, Los Angeles City Controller.

Michael Woo, Los Angeles City Council.

Gloria Molina, Los Angeles City Council.

Ruth Galanter, Los Angeles City Council.

Joel Wachs, Los Angeles City Council.

Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles City Council.

Joan Milke Flores, Los Angeles City Council.

Joy Picus, Los Angeles City Council.

Faye Washington, City Department of Aging, General Manager.

Cheryl Ward Smith, Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney.

Henry Hurd, Los Angeles City Personnel Department.

Roslyn Carter, Los Angeles Deputy City Legislative Analyst.

Susan Harbach, Los Angeles Deputy City Administrative Officer.

James Fleck, L.A. City C.D.D., Rent Stabilization Division.

Morris Kight, President, L.A. County Human Relations Commission.

Pastore Herrera, Deputy Director, L.A. Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

Jim LaMaida, L.A. County Department of Children's Services.

John Van de Kamp, California Attorney General.

Tom Bates, California State Assemblyman.

Diane Watson, California State Senator.

Wallace Albertson, Trustee, Los Angeles Community College Board.

Art Agnos, Mayor of San Francisco.

Midge Costanza, Former Special Assistant to President Carter.

Fred Harris, Former U.S. Senator, U. of New Mexico Professor.

Community Leaders - Business & Labor

Raul Garza, Public Affairs, A.T. & T.

Judy Wollan, Education and Policy Director, Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Craig Hume, Public Affairs Specialist, Western Oil and Gas Assn.

Kurt Vorndran, National Committee for Full Employment, AFL/CIO.

Alan Mann, Manager of External Public Affairs, Kaiser-Permanente.

Dennis Perkins, Consumer Affairs Manager, GTE California.

Beverly Bickmore, Private Industry Council.

Alex Wilson, Edison Electric Institute.

David Arpin, Mediamark Research, N.Y.

Community Leaders -- Religious

Oliver Garver, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

Community Leaders -- Research and Education

Marie Atwood, California Coalition for Public Education.

Steve Chapman, American Foundation for AIDS Research.

James Flemming, Director, Upward Bound, Cal. State Northridge.

Community Leaders -- Service Providers

John Wolf, Executive Director, AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Nancy Angelo, Development Director, Los Angeles GLCSC.

Community Leaders -- Civil Rights

Marjorie Green, Western Regional Education Director, Anti-Defamation League.

Bob Lightman, National Council of Senior Citizens.

David Wertheimer, N.Y. Governor's Task Force on Bias-Related Violence.

Eliseo Martinez, President, Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos.



CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
213-248-3311

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

October 27, 1988

Honorable James Hahn
City Attorney
Room 1800, City Hall East

Dear Jim:

On May 19, 1988, the Task Force on Family Diversity issued its final report entitled "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action." The report suggests 110 ways in which city government, in cooperation with other public-sector and private-sector agencies, can help improve the quality of life for Los Angeles families.

I am transmitting a copy of the report to you because I believe that it will help your agency to better assess the needs of contemporary families and to develop policies and programs that will effectively address these needs in the coming years.

In general, I would like your general reactions to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Family Diversity. In particular, I would like your assessment regarding the feasibility of implementing the recommendations specifically directed to the City Attorney (see recommendations 12, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 44, 47, 49, 78, 85, 89, 107).

To obtain additional copies of the Task Force report for others in your agency, please contact Thomas F. Coleman at (213) 258-8955.

I would appreciate your response no later than December 15, 1988. Please send your reply to the attention of Julie Tugend in my office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tom Bradley'.

TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

enclosure



JAMES K. HAHN
CITY ATTORNEY

Office of the City Attorney

Los Angeles, California

March 21, 1989

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1800 CITY HALL EAST
LOS ANGELES 90012
(213) 485 5409

CRIMINAL BRANCH
213 485 5470

CIVIL BRANCH
213 485 5471

TELECOPIER
(213) 680 3634

The Honorable Tom Bradley
Mayor,
City of Los Angeles
Room 375, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: Julie Tugend

Re: Recommendations of Task Force on Family Diversity

Dear Tom:

I am writing in response to your letter requesting my reactions to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Family Diversity. In particular, you asked for my assessment of the feasibility of implementing specific recommendations directed to my office. These specific recommendations are: 12, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 44, 47, 49, 78, 85, 89, and 107.^{1/}

In response to these recommendations, I have determined to take the following course of action:

RECOMMENDATION 12

"The Task Force recommends that lawmakers, such as the City Council and the state Legislature, and those with responsibility for drafting and analyzing proposed legislation, such as the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Attorney at the local level and the Legislative Counsel at the state level, should be sensitive to the fact that "family" now is a term of art, capable of many variable definitions. When the term family is used in proposed legislation, the Task Force encourages such officials to consider relevant definitional options and to favor inclusive rather than exclusive terminology."

^{1/}I can respond to all of the recommendations except 23 and 85. These two recommendations are the subject matter of a previous request for an informal City Attorney opinion by Councilman Michael Woc. The requested opinion involved a legal issue which was pending before the State Fair Employment and Housing Commission. The Commission has just rendered its decision and the previously requested opinion is being redrafted. A copy of the informal opinion will be sent to you as soon as it is available.

Honorable Tom Bradley

March 21, 1989

Page 2.

Action: My office is very much aware of the changing family unit. We reflected the need to encompass the changing family structure when we proposed certain domestic violence legislation in the last legislative session. You can be assured that as legislation is proposed where the term or concept of family is involved, we will continue to favor an inclusive meaning.

RECOMMENDATION 24

"The Task Force recommends that the City Attorney enforce existing fair housing laws against shelters for the homeless that won't accept pregnant women. If rejection of pregnant women is not presently illegal, the law should be amended."

Action: There is no current ordinance or statute which specifically states that pregnant women shall not be discriminated against by operators of shelters for homeless persons. It is difficult to determine in what context this recommendation arises. I have spoken to Julie Downey, supervisor of our Housing and Grants unit, regarding this issue. She says the current practice among operators or shelters is to give priority to the largest families where the family is homeless. This problem most likely arises where the pregnant woman is single. She would in all likelihood be treated as a single adult, and not as a "family."

The real issue is that many shelter providers are not under our control; some are churches, missions and private non-profit organizations. These organizations do not fall under the traditional Landlord-Tenant relationship which would trigger Fair Housing Laws. The shelters are only temporary.

In the contract between the City and the Housing Authority, family is defined as one adult and one or more children. Moreover, the family trailers are two, three and four bedrooms in size. Thus, if the pregnant woman were to present herself for family housing, the priority would be given to the families with several family members.

RECOMMENDATION 25

"Since housing discrimination persists, the Task Force recommends that the City Attorney and the City's Housing Coordinator cooperate with the Fair Housing Councils to develop a plan to deter landlords from engaging in unfair housing practices and to educate families of their housing rights."

Honorable Tom Bradley
March 21, 1989
Page 3.

Action: This office has and will continue to cooperate with the Fair Housing Councils to develop a plan to keep landlords from engaging in unfair housing practices. We will be particularly sensitive to the issues raised in the Task Force report.

RECOMMENDATION 32

"The Task Force recommends that the Los Angeles City Attorney specifically request that the state Insurance Commissioner forward to the City Attorney copies of lifestyle discrimination complaints involving transactions occurring in the City of Los Angeles. This will enable the City Attorney to determine if unfair business practices are occurring in the city so that such matters and practices can be enjoined."

Action: A letter has been prepared for transmittal to the State Insurance Commissioner requesting that copies of any life-style discrimination complaint involving the City of Los Angeles be forwarded to my office. The office is prepared to take appropriate legal action if it is determined that unfair business practices are occurring.

RECOMMENDATION 33

"The Task Force recommends that the City Attorney convene an Insurance Task Force on Lifestyle Discrimination. Representatives of the Attorney General's Office, the Insurance Commissioner's Office, the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing, civil rights groups, consumer protection groups, and the insurance industry should be invited to participate on the Task Force. The purpose of the Insurance Task Force would be to make recommendations to improve the manner in which lifestyle discrimination is handled by state and local agencies with apparent jurisdiction over arbitrary or unfair business practices."

Action: We shall convene such a task force. Any suggestions of task force members from the Mayor, Council members on the Family Diversity would be welcomed.

RECOMMENDATION 44

"The Task Force recommends that the City Attorney convene a one year Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Family Violence, comprised of police personnel, city prosecutors, community agencies, shelter staff and representatives from the lesbian and gay community, to examine the problem of gay and lesbian partner battery, to assess the needs that exist, and to make specific recommendations to improve the way in which domestic violence programs and services in city handle same-sex partner abuse."

Honorable Tom Bradley
March 21, 1989
Page 4.

Action: The City Attorney will convene a task force to look at Gay and lesbian family violence. Once again, suggestions if there are welcome.

RECOMMENDATION 47

"The Task Force recommends that the City Attorney establish a one-year Task Force on Immigrant Family Violence, consisting of local police officers, city prosecutors, service providers and organizations representing Latino and Asian/Pacific immigrant communities, to study the needs of immigrants for education and services relating to child abuse and partner abuse, and to make specific recommendations to the city regarding culturally-relevant, multilingual education and intervention programs."

Action: A one-year task force will be established to look at the problems of the immigrant family in dealing with family-violence.

RECOMMENDATION 49

"The Task Force recommends that, as a two-year pilot project, the City Attorney implement an Elder Abuse Deferred Prosecution Program."

Action: We are currently examining how elder abuse cases are handled in our office and we are looking at ways in which to incorporate elder abuse into our Domestic Violence Unit. There are many fundamental problems with elder abuse cases which need to be resolved before we commence a two-year pilot project as recommended.

It is unclear exactly what a deferred prosecution program entails. There are several thoughts which come to mind:

- a) A hearing program where the offender is counselled and warned;
- b) A hearing program that not only provides warnings and counseling but also conducts a follow-up on each case to determine if there are reoccurrences; or
- c) A diversion program with referrals to appropriate agencies dealing with elder abuse.

No specific diversion provision currently exists in the Penal Code dealing with elder abuse. The current domestic violence diversion statute probably would not be applicable because the statute was intended to cover only

Honorable Tom Bradley

March 21, 1989

Page 5.

those situations involving married couples. More importantly, we have little information on programs designed to treat elder abuse offenders. Without programs in place deferred prosecution would not be possible, even if there was legal authorization for such a program.

RECOMMENDATION 78

"The Task Force recommends that the Los Angeles City Attorney provide training to local prosecutors on disability and its relationship to criminal investigation and prosecution."

Action: We are very sensitive to special needs of industrial crime victims. Specifically, I have asked the Chief of our Criminal Branch to include a section on the special needs of disabled crime victims and witnesses in our City Attorney training program.

RECOMMENDATION 89

"The Task Force recommends that the City Attorney monitor the case of Yolano-Donelley Tenant Association v. Secretary of H.U.D. (federal district court number 86-0846), in which federal housing regulations (51 Fed. Reg. 11198) propose to end rent subsidies to households which cannot prove that all household members are documented residents. If the case is appealed, the City Council should authorize the City Attorney to file a friend-of-the-court brief in the appellate court challenging the regulation as overly broad and unnecessarily punitive."

Action: We are aware of Yolano-Donelley Tenant Association v. Secretary of H.U.D., and shall continue to monitor the case.

RECOMMENDATION 107

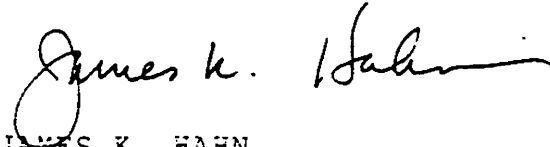
"The Task Force recommends that the City Council amend the Administrative Code provisions dealing with nondiscrimination by city contractors, adding "marital status," "sexual orientation," and "medical condition" to appropriate subdivisions of Section 10.8, Division 10, Chapter 1 of the Code. It is further recommended that the City Attorney and the Board of Public Works keep the City Council and the Mayor apprised of any additional categories which should be added as state, federal, and local nondiscrimination laws may be augmented in the future."

Action: This office will advise you and the City Council of any additional categories of persons to be added to the Administrative Code provisions dealing with nondiscrimination by City contractors.

Honorable Tom Bradley
March 21, 1989
Page 6.

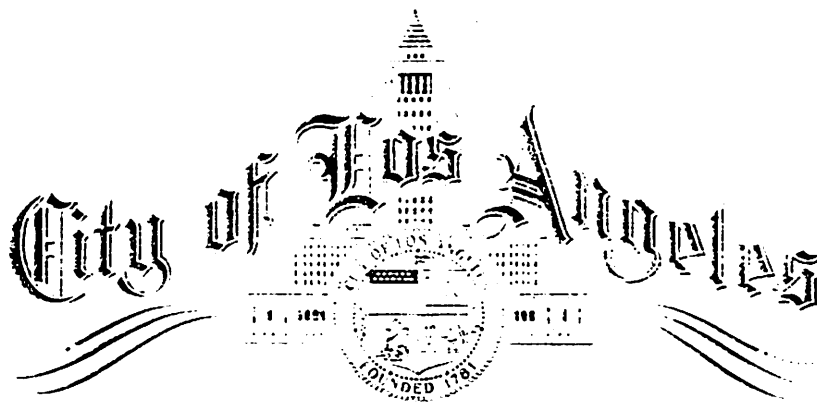
I hope this information answers your questions about the
specific recommendations directed to my office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James K. Hahn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

JAMES K. HAHN
City Attorney

JKH:CSW:jm



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
213-466-3311

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

October 27, 1988

Ms. Faye Washington
General Manager
Department of Aging
207 South Broadway
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Faye:

On May 19, 1988, the Task Force on Family Diversity issued its final report entitled "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action." The report suggests 110 ways in which city government, in cooperation with other public-sector and private-sector agencies, can help improve the quality of life for Los Angeles families.

I am transmitting a copy of the report to you because I believe that it will help your agency to better assess the needs of contemporary families and to develop policies and programs that will effectively address these needs in the coming years.

In general, I would like your general reactions to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Family Diversity. In particular, I would like your assessment regarding the feasibility of implementing the recommendations specifically directed to the Department of Aging (see recommendations 48, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72).

To obtain additional copies of the Task Force report for others in your agency, please contact Thomas F. Coleman at (213) 258-8955.

I would appreciate your response no later than December 15, 1988. Please send your reply to the attention of Julie Tugend in my office.

Very truly yours,
Tom Bradley
TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

FAYE WASHINGTON
GENERAL MANAGER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF AGING
An Area Agency on Aging

600 S. SPRING ST., SUITE 900
LOS ANGELES, CA 90014
(213) 485-4685

December 19, 1988

Ms. Julie Tugend
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
200 North Spring St., Room M-1
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Tugend:

The final report of the Task Force on Family Diversity entitled "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action" is useful and timely as the City's Department of Aging is currently conducting a needs assessment of seniors living in the City of Los Angeles. This report can serve as an additional source of useful information in the development of the 1989-93 Planning and Service Area Plan. The Department of Aging, in the spirit of the Older Americans Act is committed to improving the quality of life of all seniors and targeting those seniors with the greatest amount of needs, the frail elderly 80 years and older, which according to the report is the fastest growing segment of the senior population 60 years and older. Satisfying the needs of the frail elderly means focusing on programs that comprise a comprehensive array of community based long-term care services adequate to appropriately sustain older people in their communities and homes.

The recommendations for the City of Los Angeles to sponsor a Foster Grandparent Program (Recommendation #69) and create a time-limited Joint Task Force on Intergenerational Child Care (Recommendation #70) are worthwhile ideas that will be considered as the Department of Aging continues to develop new ideas and policies that serve to meet the needs of seniors living in the City of Los Angeles. The idea of linking with the County to jointly sponsor a Foster Grandparent Program and creating a Joint Task Force, composed of the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the City's new child care coordinator and the Director of the City's Department of Aging conforms to the Older American Act's reliance upon Area Agencies on Aging to serve as lead coordinators in carrying out the range of functions related to advocacy, planning and inter-agency linkages.

The Department of Aging, supports, in principle, the recommendation that the City's Commission on the Status of Women review what City officials and agencies can do to improve the quality of life of older women (recommendation #68). Although we recognize that inequities and unfairness exist that create barriers to the improvement of the quality of life of older women, the services and policies conceived by the Department of Aging are for the good of all seniors. For the Department to develop programs and policies using public resources that would benefit only older women would not follow the intent of the Department of Aging to serve all seniors without regard to sex, race or religious affiliation. However, the Department of Aging does support and believe reforms must be implemented to erase the pay inequities in employment, foster the hiring of older women in government positions, equalize post-divorce economic disparity and promote the development of affordable housing for women.

Concerning the issue of shelter, the Department is currently pursuing the development of an effective housing program for seniors. The Task Force's recommendation (#72) that the City Council become involved in senior housing issues would enhance our research efforts and contribute to the development of an effective housing program that permits seniors to remain independent and prevents institutionalization and homelessness. The Department of Aging would also like the opportunity, as suggested in the final report, to serve on a task force designed to recommend improvements in the City's response to seniors' housing needs. The recommendations made by the Task Force concerning senior housing are feasible and worthwhile considerations.

The 1986 County Task Force Report on Elder Abuse proposed recommendations consisting of legislative proposals and changes, training and program development, and interagency coordination and linkages. The County Report also focused on the narrow view that caregivers are the primary offenders in elder abuse and that lesser forms of elder abuse can be approached as a problem requiring therapeutic and educational intervention. The Department of Aging supports recommendation #49 because we believe that: (1) elder abuse is not limited to the caregiver, but can be applied to anyone who has easy access to a senior and is not impeded from imposing their will on an elderly person; and (2) alternatives must be available to impede the incidences of elder abuse that do not respond to therapeutic and educational intervention. Elder abuse specialists need to be developed in law enforcement to improve the identifying and reporting of elder abuse. We believe that the Department of

Ms. Julie Tugend

- 3 -

December 19, 1988


Aging, acting as lead coordinator, with the support of the City Police Department and the City Attorney's Office can make an impact on the establishment of specialized training, statistics and tracking mechanisms on elder abuse. We also recognize that the caregiver, as a result of their role as a caregiver, is as much of a victim of elder abuse as the elder themselves. Convening an ongoing interagency Task Force on Elder Abuse, with the Department of Aging as lead coordinator, would also foster the development of rehabilitation programs for offenders in elder abuse cases.

Recommendation #71 (respite care) is also an appropriate approach to the problem of elder abuse. The Department has recently developed a Respite Care Program that has identified respite care providers in the City that can provide in-home services through the existing Multipurpose Senior Centers in the 15 Council Districts of the City. We have negotiated a contract with one of the providers, Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc., to provide this service throughout the City.

The potential of elder abuse situations could also be greatly reduced by providing useful information to caregivers to relieve them of the stress of caregiving. The Department of Aging supports recommendation #96 that suggests that the Mayor encourage Department heads to develop more Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about the social programs and services available to seniors throughout the City. Respite Care Programs, PSAs and the development of support groups for caregivers is a more practical solution to the problem of elder abuse.

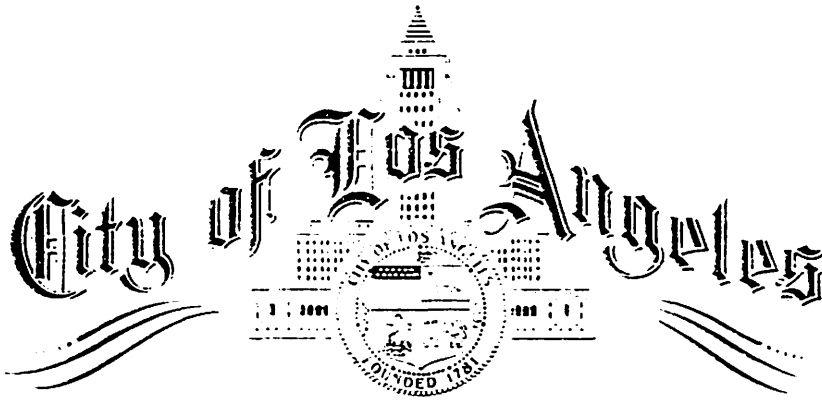
The Department of Aging hopes that our responses to your inquiries concerning the Task Force on Family Diversity's Final Report: "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action" will assist you in your efforts to assess the impact this report will have on the development of city programs and policies. If you should have any questions concerning this matter, please contact C. Jacob Wood, of my staff, at (213) 485-6535.

Sincerely,


FAYE WASHINGTON
General Manager

FW/cjw





CITY HALL
122 N. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
213 465 3311

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
October 26, 1988

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

Mr. Edward J. Avila
President
Board of Public Works
Room 373, City Hall

Dear Ed:

On May 19, 1988, the Task Force on Family Diversity issued its final report entitled "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action." The report suggests 110 ways in which city government, in cooperation with other public-sector and private-sector agencies, can help improve the quality of life for Los Angeles families.

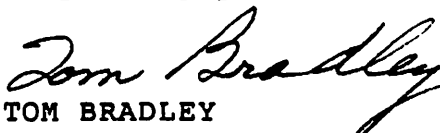
I am transmitting a copy of the report to you because I believe that it will help your agency to better assess the needs of contemporary families and to develop policies and programs that will effectively address these needs in the coming years.

In general, I would like your general reactions to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Family Diversity. In particular, I would like your assessment regarding the feasibility of implementing the recommendations specifically directed to the Board of Public Works (see recommendations 97, 107).

To obtain additional copies of the Task Force report for others in your agency, please contact Thomas F. Coleman at (213) 258-8955.

I would appreciate your response no later than December 15, 1988. Please send your reply to the attention of Julie Tugend in my office.

Very truly yours,


TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

enclosure

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMBERS

CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

1988 DEC 11 PM 9 09 373. CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
B. J. MCKELVEY
SECRETARY
GENERAL INFORMATION
485-3381



TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

EDWARD J. AVILA
PRESIDENT
485-3376
DENNIS N. NISHIKAWA
VICE-PRESIDENT
485-3379
STEVE HARRINGTON
PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE
485-3375
KATHLEEN BROWN
485-3377
MYRLIE B. EVERS
485-3378

December 8, 1988

The Honorable Tom Bradley, Mayor
City of Los Angeles
Room 305, City Hall
200 No. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Julie Tugend

SUBJECT: TASK FORCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY

As requested, I reviewed the final report from the Task Force on Family Diversity entitled "Strengthening Families: A model for Community Action". In general, I believe that it is an excellent and comprehensive document that can serve as a model plan for community action.

You also asked me to specifically comment on the feasibility of implementing recommendations no. 97 and 107 which involve the Department of Public Works. Recommendation no. 97 suggests that the Office of Contract Compliance encourage networks to hire more diversified staff in positions of authority. I agree that this is a worthwhile goal, but it would be more appropriate for the Board of Public Works specifically to be involved in this recommendation. The Office of Contract Compliance, recently reassigned to the Bureau of Contract Administration, primarily deals with vendors and construction contracts and has very little involvement with the media. However, the Board has routine involvement with all aspects of the industry primarily through its Public Information and Motion Picture Coordination Offices. The Board of Public Works is committed to using its resources, to the extent feasible, to promote the goal of encouraging the networks to hire more diversified staff in positions of authority. The Board's role in this recommendation, I believe, would be one of education and encouragement rather than any actual ability to mandate such changes.

Recommendation no. 107 suggests that the City Attorney's Office and the Board of Public Works keep the City Council and the Mayor apprised of any necessary changes that need to be made to non-discrimination clauses in City contracts as a result of changes in laws. I believe that is a feasible and desirable recommendation and appropriate staff

of this Department have been instructed to provide this information, as necessary, through the Board, to the Mayor and City Council.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this report. If you have any further questions, please call me.



EDWARD J. AVILA, President
Board of Public Works

EJA:MS:aa

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMBERS

EDWARD J. AVILA
PRESIDENT
485-3376
DENNIS N. NISHIKAWA
VICE-PRESIDENT
485-3379
STEVE HARRINGTON
PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE
485-3375
KATHLEEN BROWN
485-3377
MYRLIE B. EVERS
485-3378

OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

373. CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
B. J. McKELVEY
SECRETARY
GENERAL INFORMATION
485-3381

December 27, 1988

The Honorable Tom Bradley, Mayor
City of Los Angeles
Room 385, City Hall
200 No. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Julie Tugend

SUBJECT: TASK FORCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY

On December 8, 1988, I responded to your letter requesting comments on the final report of the Task Force on Family Diversity. Since that date the Bureau of Engineering has provided me with additional comments on Recommendation Nos. 75, 100 and 102.

Recommendation No. 75 suggests that the City Council direct appropriate City Departments to create more curb cuts and implement other changes to insure disabled residents and their families have equal access to the center of our City and its government buildings.

The Board of Public Works, through its existing policies, strongly supports this recommendation. Curb cuts for the disabled are required by the the Board on all publicly and privately financed street improvement projects. The Board further requires access facilities for the disabled on all new public buildings and when making modifications to existing public buildings. Each year the Board also requests funding of gas tax financed projects for installing curb cuts at intersections.

Recommendation Nos. 100 and 102 deal with employee benefits and I generally agree with the report as written. The City needs to modernize its benefit system, eliminate marital status discrimination and consider an on-site dependent care center. My only concern is where the change in benefits may affect work schedules and staff availability and, as a result, adversely impact the vital services we provide. In those cases, implementation of such benefits must also be balanced against the operational needs of the Department and the City. Many of the Department's almost 6,000 employees work on teams or crews and not all work settings may be productive under flexible work schedules or lend themselves well to programs that create additional

Honorable Tom Bradley, Mayor

-2-

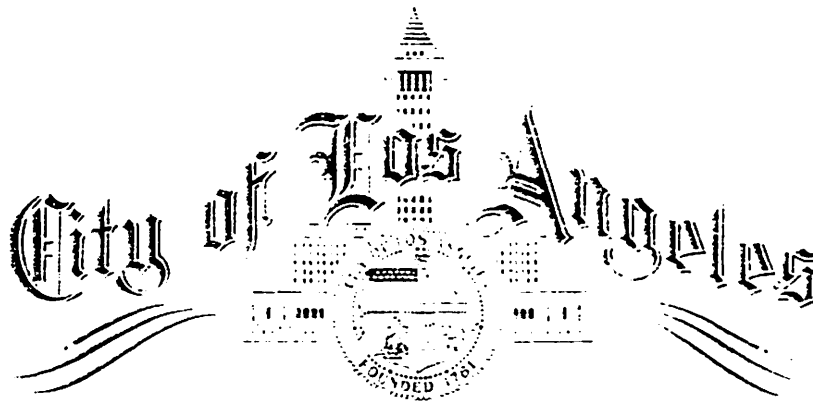
December 27, 1988

time off from the work place. Consequently, I would request that our department be consulted before changes which would affect these areas are negotiated to ensure that our various work programs continue to be performed efficiently and effectively.

I hope these additional comments are useful. If you have any questions please call me.

EDWARD J. AVILA, President
Board of Public Works

EJA:MS:aa



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 488-3311

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
October 27, 1988

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

Ms. Leila Gonzalez Correa
Executive Director
Housing Authority
515 Columbia Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Leila:

On May 19, 1988, the Task Force on Family Diversity issued its final report entitled "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action." The report suggests 110 ways in which city government, in cooperation with other public-sector and private-sector agencies, can help improve the quality of life for Los Angeles families.

I am transmitting a copy of the report to you because I believe that it will help your agency to better assess the needs of contemporary families and to develop policies and programs that will effectively address these needs in the coming years.

In general, I would like your general reactions to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Family Diversity. In particular, I would like your assessment regarding the feasibility of implementing the recommendations specifically directed to the Housing Authority (see recommendation 21,25).

To obtain additional copies of the Task Force report for others in your agency, please contact Thomas F. Coleman at (213) 258-8955.

I would appreciate your response no later than December 15, 1988. Please send your reply to the attention of Julie Tugend in my office.

Very truly yours,

TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

enclosure



FILE
10
Sup
Atch?
Family Diversity
Los Angeles

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
515 Columbia Avenue • Los Angeles, Calif. 90017 • Box 17157 Foy Station • 483-6440

COMMISSIONERS
ALVIN GREENE, CHAIRPERSON
LOUIS JANICICH, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
TRINIDAD BARAJAS
ARTURO FRIBOURC
OZIE B. GONZAQUE
DORI PYE
FRANK SAWYER

December 14, 1988

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEILA GONZALEZ-CORREA

Honorable Tom Bradley
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
City Hall - Room 305E
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mayor Bradley:

Thank you for giving the Los Angeles City Housing Authority an opportunity to offer its input on the final report of the Task Force on Family Diversity, "Strengthening Families: A Model for Community Action." This report offers insight into the needs of low-income families of diverse backgrounds which are the backbone of our constituency.

As the agency that serves so many of our low and very low-income families, we wish we had been a part of the study since so many of the issues discussed therein -- as many other issues that are not -- are so relevant in the context of our mission.

The report emphasizes the need for low-income housing and states that "the scarcity of low-income housing appears to be the main cause of homelessness." We certainly concur in the concept that the shortage of available low-income housing units is becoming more critical every year.

This situation is directly related to the general decline in HUD funding levels from 1981 to the present.

In 1981, HUD determined that the need for housing for lower income families was one of affordability rather than availability. Having reached this conclusion, HUD focused its efforts on programs which are "tenant-based" rather than "project-based" and undertook several efforts to reduce the Federal Government's long term financial commitment to housing for lower income families. These efforts involved several strategies.

The first approach utilized was the use of a "recapture policy." Any Public Housing Project for which funds for acquisition and construction had been reserved but not obligated (essentially, the project was not under construction or out for bid for construction) as of a date certain, the reservation of funds was cancelled and the Project cancelled. HACLA fell victim to this policy initiative to the extent of \$50 million representing the loss of a substantial number of units.

The second approach to reducing the long term commitment to Public Housing was achieved by a statutory change to the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (the federal statutory basis for the Public Housing Program) which provided for the forgiveness of the unamortized portion of the development cost of existing Public Housing Projects. To date this provision has not been fully implemented because of disagreement between HUD and Housing Authorities as to the consequences of the loan forgiveness.

The third, and most significant, approach, from the standpoint of numbers of units, was the result of a further statutory change under which the full cost of developing a Public Housing Project was to be provided as an up-front grant. The result of this high impact effect on the federal budget was to substantially reduce the number of units which could be funded annually; for Fiscal Year 1988, the total number authorized was 5,000 units. Of the 5,000 units, HACLA was authorized to apply for funding for no more than 39 units but its applications were not funded.

Action undertaken by your administration, such as the creation of a Blue Ribbon Committee on Housing, which recently issued an excellent report with new and creative ideas regarding the provision of affordable housing have increased the awareness and sensitivity to the plight of low-income families.

The recommendation to create a City Housing Commission will go a long way towards the coordination of programs so that more affordable housing is targeted to the areas and to the families where the needs are the greatest.

For its part, the Housing Authority has undertaken actions which will directly benefit the City's low-income families, as follows:

1. The HACLA recently completed a refinancing transaction which has produced approximately \$8 million, which will be used to upgrade existing developments. Although HUD funds housing modernization programs, the funding levels are very low, and progress to complete the rehabilitation of all programs has been very slow. The infusion of \$8 million to do some of the most urgent needs at the developments will go a long way to instill pride in the residents, as we have already seen in the South Central Los Angeles developments.

2. The Housing Authority is committed to the preservation of low-income housing stock. This commitment is evidenced by the fact that we have issued an RFP for the redevelopment of Normont Terrace which requires one-on-one replacement for every unit to be demolished. In any other project, where we consider "redevelopment," now or in the future, the HACLA supports the conservation of all existing housing units.
3. In addition, the HACLA has retained a group of planning, architectural and community consultants who are conducting a comprehensive study of all twenty-one housing developments. The purpose of this study is to determine the feasibility of more effective and consistent land reuse. This study has had comprehensive input from community and resident leaders. The goals are to direct our reuse towards the enhancement of the quality of life for the very low-income families in our developments.
4. One of the issues of continuing concern to the Housing Authority is the level of criminality in the housing projects. In order to protect the lives and property of our residents, the Authority is now developing plans to install perimeter fencing at all the projects with 24-hour security guards at designated entrances, to control the access and egress of vehicles throughout the developments. This security-oriented physical improvements measure will enhance protective services to our residents.
5. The Housing Authority is working very closely with Councilmanic Offices and the Community Development Department in developing social service assistance programs. Some examples of this are:
 - a) Five pilot programs regarding the Welfare Youth Grant Program to be implemented by the Community Development Department at five of our sites.
 - b) Coordination with Councilwoman Joan Flores' Office and the Mayor's Office, which has resulted in grants from HUD for child care facilities in various developments.
 - c) Coordination with Councilman Robert Farrell's Office and the Mayor's Office, whereby a trailer was placed in Avalon Gardens for an Ombudsperson to do outreach for personal assistance programs.
 - d) The HACLA has also worked very closely with Project Build to provide pre-employment assistance at five of our sites. Project Build has also been granted state assistance for the provision of day care at some sites.

- e) In coordination with Councilman Ernani Bernardi's Office, the HACLA has filed an application with the CDD for a loan and grant to build a community center at San Fernando Gardens. Councilman Bernardi has also been very involved with the perimeter fencing issue at the development.
- f) The HACLA has been actively involved in Councilwoman Ruth Galanter's Task Force for the improvement of living conditions at Mar Vista Gardens. We are now in the process of requesting input from the residents regarding perimeter fencing.
- g) In coordination with the Chairman of Board of Public Works Ed Avila, we are now working on a program to evaluate all Housing Authority streets to determine the need for corrective action regarding potholes, lack of curbs, etc.

The Report makes reference to the Housing Authority's "operationally troubled" designation. In response to this designation, HACLA prepared and submitted to HUD a "Work Out Plan" to address those "troubled" areas. All tasks identified in the Plan have now been completed and only the administrative task of having the designation removed by the Washington HUD Central Office remains.

Another issue raised by the Report has to do with a reported "cash flow" shortage which caused withholding of rent subsidy payments to participating Section 8 landlords. This "cash flow" shortage lasted only for a few days and was resolved immediately. Steps have been taken to ensure that this situation will not reoccur. No Section 8 landlords were lost through this event.

On the contrary, the computerization of our Section 8 program and the reorganization which went from an "assemblyline" approach to a Section 8 Advisor concept has improved the relationships with landlords and tenants alike. There are nine thousand Section 8 landlords and many of them have now joined an Owners of Subsidized Housing Association which is working with our staff in improving the processing of Section 8 contracts.

Also, a program to educate landlords and families of their Fair Housing rights is woven into the Certification Session each Section 8 tenant attends when they are preparing to find a new unit. The rights, and the responsibilities, of each party are outlined and the location of a Fair Housing field office is supplied. This same information is given to each of the Section 8 owners when they initiate or renew any contract with this agency.


At this point, we also would like to correct the figures reflected in the report. The City owns 9,500 public housing units and 23,000 Section 8 units, for a total of 34,500 units. We also administer the HAPP Contract for a total of 3,800 units.

Mayor Tom Bradley
December 13, 1988
Page 5

The Report contains a series of ideas and recommendations that merit further study and analysis. Overall, it provides good guidelines for community action on strengthening our families. We hope that the Housing Authority will be asked to participate in any further discussion and analysis of the report.

The welfare of the low-income families of Los Angeles is very important to the Housing Authority. Any actions to strengthen the lives of our low-income families will be a welcome enhancement to the quality of life in our housing developments.

Sincerely,


Leila Gonzalez-Correa
Executive Director

LGC:db

cc: Deputy Mayor Grace Davis
Gary Squier
Julie Tugend ✓