

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

DATE: October 7, 2002

FROM: Cynthia J. Kurtz, City Manager

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF REVISION OF NAME OF HUMAN SERVICES,
RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance to revise the name of the Human Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department to "Human Services and Recreation Department".

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

This recommendation was presented to the Recreation and Parks Commission at their meeting of August 6, 2002, and to the Human Services Commission at their meeting of September 9, 2002. There was no objection to this recommendation.

BACKGROUND

Since its establishment in 1992, the former Human Services Department has experienced two mergers that have resulted in the expansion of the scope of work and an expansion of the Department name. In Fiscal Year 1995, various neighborhood-focused programs were reassigned from the former Planning, Building and Neighborhood Services Department to the Human Services Department, with a corresponding change in the Department name to "Human Services and Neighborhoods Department". A second merger was implemented in Fiscal Year 1998, with the restructure of the former Parks and Recreation Department. At that time, the recreation section of the former Parks and Recreation Department merged to create what has since been called the "Human Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department".

Over recent years it has become evident that the current Department name - - Human Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods - - is so lengthy as to be problematic for many customers. Further, because some key neighborhood programs are organizationally located in other City departments, the title has

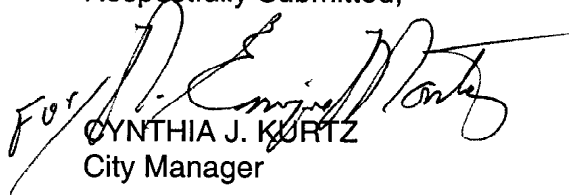
created some confusion for customers seeking neighborhood planning, code enforcement, and related types of services.

It is recommended that the Department name be revised to "Human Services and Recreation". The term "human services" in the Department name covers a very broad range of service areas, including neighborhood activities. Similarly, the extensive job training and employment programs of this Department are not specifically called out in the Department title, but certainly all within the scope of human services. The deletion of "Neighborhoods" from the Department name in no way diminishes the Department's focus on neighborhood efforts any more than the absence of "employment" in the Department name diminishes the focus on and delivery of outstanding job training and employment services in this Department. The purpose of this name change to "Human Services and Recreation" is to simplify and create a more customer-friendly Department name.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact of this action.

Respectfully Submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared and Approved by:



PATRICIA A. LANE

Director of Human Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department