

**THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND OPENNESS
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**CORRECTED ACTIONS FOR
MAY 2, 2005, AT 9:00 A.M.**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM (12TH FLOOR), CITY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING
202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

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COUNCIL COMMENT:

ACTION: None received.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENT:

It is the opinion of the City Attorney that tax increases are not appropriate to pay for illegal benefits granted to employees; however, this would be appropriate for legally granted benefits and other valid city services. If illegal benefit increases were eliminated and the service credits which were purchased at lower rates than was appropriate and was made whole, then the City would significantly reduce the current deficit.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: Andy Berg, National Electrical Contractors Association: Stated that the City Council must hold a special election because the Mayor must be elected by a majority of the citizens of San Diego.

ADOPTION AGENDA

Approval of the Record of Action Items for April 11, 2005.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Maienschein, second by Councilmember Atkins to approve the action items for April 11, 2005.

VOTE: 3-0; Frye-yea, Atkins- yea, Maienschein-yea.

ITEM-1: Budget Report from the CENTER ON POLICY INITIATIVES.
(INFORMATIONAL)

Public Comment Received by: Lisa Briggs, San Diego Taxpayers Association:

CORRECTED ACTIONS
Committee on Government Efficiency and Openness
May 2, 2005

- 2 -

Stated that revenues need to be an overall part of any budget solutions, but San Diego must concentrate on providing basic services and change its spending habits.

Public Comment Received by: Andy Berg:

Stated the need to change how the City Council budgets for basic services. We must start using real numbers – such as higher estimates for Police and Fire Department overtime.

Public Comment Received by: Johnnie Perkins, San Diego City Firefighters:

Stated that firefighters do not make as much in salaries and retirement benefits as has been represented to the public. Overtime pay saves taxpayer dollars- as opposed to hiring more firefighters with full benefits.

Public Comment Received by: Tim Holmberg:

Stated the need to look at a number of reforms in regards to our revenues and expenditures.

Public Comment Received by: Phil Hart:

Stated the need for City Councilmembers to limit spending on special projects in their own districts.

Public Comment Received by: Mitch Mitchell:

Stated that money must be spent for the public good and involve public participation. People should be able to expect the City to have the resources necessary to provide basic City services.

Public Comment Received by: Don Cohen, Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI):

The CPI report is meant to begin a dialogue. It is important for San Diego to invest in our infrastructure and neighborhoods.

Public Comment Received by: Fred Sainz:

Agrees with CPI report and made the point that the Convention Center needs increased funding.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Atkins, second by Councilmember Maienschein to accept the report and direct the City Manager to:

1. Report back to GE&O on CPI's recommendation on creating a public awareness campaign to inform residents and businesses on the role of City services and the need to raise funds for providing them;

CORRECTED ACTIONS
Committee on Government Efficiency and Openness
May 2, 2005

- 3 -

2. Provide GE&O with further analysis on introducing ballot measures to raise taxes and fees, at least to the average California level;
3. Provide GE&O with further analysis on raising revenues through fees that can be implemented through Council ordinances;
4. After July 1, 2005, begin an analysis on how efficiently each department in the City is run.

VOTE: 3-0; Frye-yea, Atkins-yea, Maienschein-yea

Donna Frye
Chair