

POLICY ISSUES SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION:

In March 2008, the Council Finance Committee considered the following policy issues as part of the budget development process:

- Storm Drain Regulatory Fees
- Animal Sheltering Services
- Personnel-Related Savings Options
- Public Safety Sales Tax
- Business Licensing and Collections Revenues

For a detailed discussion of each policy item, please refer to the pages following this summary.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY FINANCE COMMITTEE AND CURRENT STATUS:

Storm Drain Regulatory Fees

Committee directed staff to continue evaluation and analysis of the regulatory fees and to report back to the Committee.

Animal Sheltering Services

Committee directed staff to research other options for service delivery and report back to the Committee. The Committee also expressed an interest in hiring a consultant firm to assist in the evaluation process. The matter will be re-visited with the Committee at their April 2008, meeting.

Personnel-Related Savings Options

Committee directed staff to return to the Committee with further analysis and recommendations regarding 1) unpaid furloughs and 2) closure of city services between Christmas and New Year's Day. This item will be discussed further during the May Budget Workshops.

Public Safety Sales Tax

Committee recommended the Council consider placing the Public Safety Sales Tax measure on the November 2009, ballot and directed staff to return to the Committee with a proposed timeline and associated costs.

Business Licensing and Collections Revenues

Committee expressed an interest in implementing fees to recoup staff costs associated with pre-collection accounts and raising the return check fee to \$25. The Committee further directed staff to return to the Committee with further information and analysis of the fee impact for enhanced business license enforcement and business license application fee.

