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LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

RECORD OF ACTION FOR November 8, 2021

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Present: Diane Burgis, Chair

Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Lara DeLaney, Senior Deputy County Administrator, staff to Committee; Luz

Raygoza-Gonzalez, Administrative Services Assistant III, EHSD; Mark Goodwin, Chief of Staff, District III; Monica Nino, County Administrator; Timothy Ewell, Chief Assistant County Administrator; Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, DCD;

Daniel Peddycord, Climate and Health Policy Officer

Attendees: Paul Schlesinger; Michelle Rubalcava, Rachael Blucher; Mae Lum; Public caller;

Teresa Pasquini

1. Introductions

Vice Chair Mitchoff convened the meeting at 1:07, introducing herself and Chair Burgis, who joined shortly after the meeting convening.

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).

No public comment was made to the Committee.

3. Staff recommends approval of the Record of Action for the September 13, 2021 meeting.

The Record of Action for the Sept. 13, 2021 meeting was approved as presented.

AYE: Chair Diane Burgis

Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff

4. CONSIDER the proposed state legislative program for 2022 and make recommendations on its adoption to the Board of Supervisors.

In reference to the proposed legislation for feminine hygiene product stipends, Vice Chair Mitchoff inquired about the inclusion of adult incontinence products. Staff responded that they had not been included in the current proposal which was focused on menstruation equity but would research past legislative efforts. Teresa Pasquini commented on the work program item related to jail based comptency restoration, expressing her desire that the County abandon this initiative altogether and assume responsibility for the IST population, indicating that there was no place to divert them to. She indicated she would continue to work and advocate for these people and hoped others would step up as well. Supervisor Mitchoff indicated that Measure X may be a source of funds to assist.

AYE: Chair Diane Burgis
Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff

 CONSIDER providing direction to staff on the contract for federal legislative advocacy services and the development of the 2022 federal legislative program. CONSIDER making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on both subjects.

Regarding the federal legislative work program for 2022, CAO Nino indicated that vouchers for homeless veterans (VASH) and funding for the County airports would also be included. With regard to the contract for federal advocacy services, CAO Nino indicated the procurement process could be an opportunity to secure expertise in health policy. Mr. Schlesinger noted his new firm, Thorn Run Partners, is an expanding practice with health experts. He noted the unusual level of success in the federal earmark process in 2021 and his enjoyment in advocating on behalf of Contra Costa County. Supervisor Mitchoff expressed her preference that staff conduct a procurement process in the spring for a long-term contract but did not want to be without advocacy services in the interim. She directed staff to prepare a short-term contract with Thorn Run Partners through June 30, 2022. Chair Burgis expressed her desire for Contra Costa County to receive funding for the community's needs. The County's Sustainability Coordinator, Jody London, voiced her support for federal funding in the infrastructure bill for the weatherization program. A caller expressed concerns that the state has moved too far to the left, towards communism, and does not want to be construed as a "mental patient."

AYE: Chair Diane Burgis
Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff

6. CONSIDER providing recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on response comments to the redistricting visualizations being discussed by the state's independent redistricting commission.

Vice Chair Mitchoff indicated the Board of Supervisors would be discussing the County redistricting process at its November 23 meeting and requested that this be added to the agenda for full discussion by the Board. (The item was subsequently scheduled on December 7 to allow for a presentation by the State independent redistricting commission staff.) A caller supported term limits for political positions.

7. The next meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The December 13 meeting was subsequently canceled.

8. Adjourn