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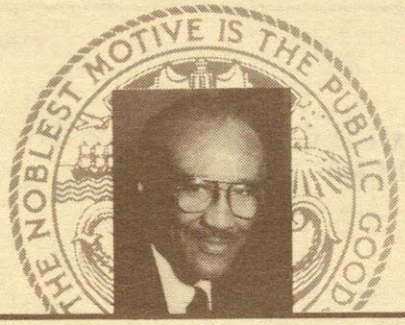


Supervisor Leon Williams Fourth District Report . . .

An Open Letter From Supervisor Leon Williams

Dear Friend:

Government is most effective when it involves the interest and participation of its citizens. That demands that you be kept informed of the issues being discussed, and that you have facts and information needed to make informed decisions and evaluations of government actions.

I hope that you will find this report both informative and interesting. For many, the County is difficult to understand, especially if you live within the incorporated area of the City of San Diego, which most of the residents of the Fourth Supervisorial District do. This is because most of the well-publicized local issues, such as police and fire protection and land-use decisions, are made by the City Council. But the County plays a major role in your life, too, literally from birth to death. After reading this newsletter I think you'll have a better idea of how much the County is a part of your life.

While the County of San Diego is recognized as a national model for efficiency and good government, we face many challenges and decisions as we plan for the future. Your thoughts and ideas on these issues are very important to me, and I hope that you will take the opportunity to write to me about them.

Together we can do more.

Sincerely,

Leon

Leon L. Williams
Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Budget Reflects County Role In Your Life

The recently adopted 1985-86 county budget underscores the county's role of people helping people.

Through its more than 11,000 employees the County provides services which enhance the lives of the two million people who live within the 4,300 square miles of San Diego County.

The County is nearly always involved in your daily life, even though you may not realize it. Whenever you purchase a home, go to the grocery store, buy gasoline or eat at a restaurant, the County is there. When a child suffers from neglect or abuse, the County provides protection and help. The quality

BUDGET DETAILS PAGE 2

of our air, our beaches and water are all monitored by the county.

As the administrative arm of the state, the County is responsible for more regional services, such as the welfare and food stamp programs, the criminal justice system, including the jails and the courts. We are the official record keepers, from birth certificates to marriage licenses to property deeds.

The recently adopted budget continues to maintain a level of consistent service within the resources available to us. While the County budget is large—$942 million—that figure is deceptive, for more than 95 percent is for programs the county is required to provide. The remaining amount must be used to pay all those other services we want locally, such as libraries,

Continued *on Page 4.*

1985 Begins with Election of Williams as Chair

This year began with the swearing-in of three new board members and my election as chairman of the Board for this critical transition year, as the Board meets voter expectations after the passage of Proposition A.

Proposition A, which I supported by being co-chairman of the campaign for its passage, has made government more open and responsive to the citizens it serves. It also strengthens the role of your elected officials to be policymakers and to hold appointive officials accountable for their actions.

Now, with the resignation of the county's Chief Administrative Officer, we will be looking for an effective, strong administrator who can translate board policy into effective actions.

During my State of the County address I called 1985 a year of partnerships: partnerships with the public, County employees, the private sector and other cities and government.

Already we are building those partnerships. This year the County rejoined SANDAG, the regional family of governments, and is actively involved in the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, of which I am vice-chairman.

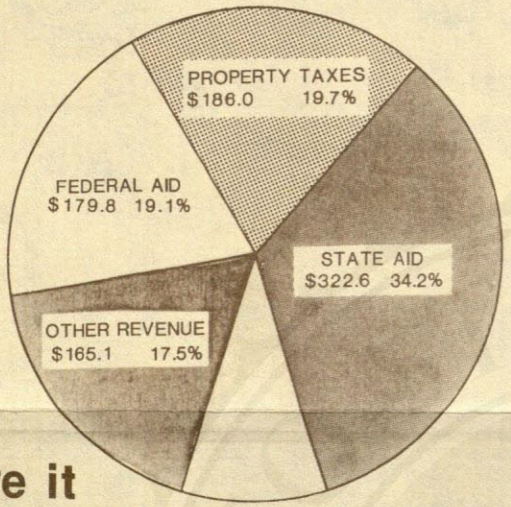
At my urging, the County has joined with the City of San Diego to develop the Regional Urban Information System, which will allow immediate computerized access to information on nearly every piece of property in the County from ownership to taxes owed. And I also serve on the San Diego County Water Reclamation Agency as well as the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties and the Executive Board of the County Supervisors Association of California.

At the conclusion of my State of the County address I said, "If I have learned anything in my lifetime, including 16 years in public office, it is that those accomplishments which endure are those which are created through teamwork and cooperation."

That is still my goal.

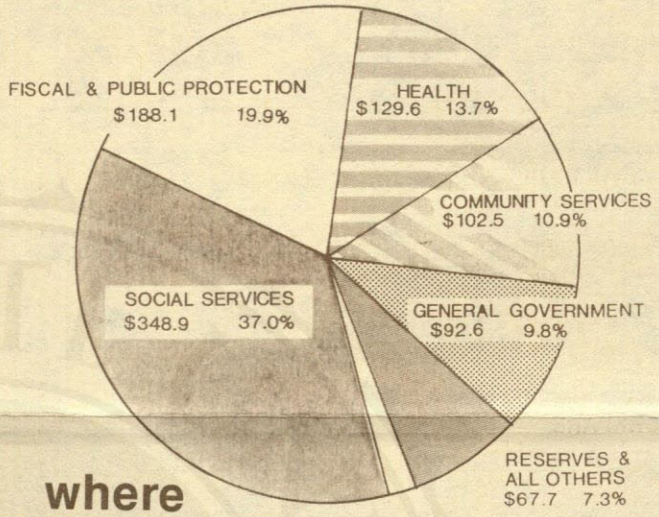
The Budget

REVENUES BY SOURCE
(IN MILLIONS)



Where it comes from...

FULL COST
(IN MILLIONS)



where it goes...

Highlights of 1985
Child Care Forum, Freeway Call Boxes, Heritage Park

CHILD CARE FORUM

The inadequate provisions of child care makes it impossible for many parents to find life-supporting jobs or creates "latch key" children who are left to fend for themselves. In April I sponsored the County's first-ever Child Care Forum, attended by parents, providers and experts in the field of child care. From this forum came many excellent ideas and suggestions on how we can combine resources to provide these needed services.

HUMAN CARE NEEDS

It is becoming painfully obvious that human care needs are rapidly exceeding our ability to provide them. In an effort to determine what those needs are and how they are being provided, at my request, the Board of Supervisors and the City Council have approved the creation of a Human Care Needs Task Force. When its job is completed the Task Force will have determined not only the needs within the City of San Diego, but also means by which we can continue to provide these vital services.

HOMELESS

For San Diego the problem of the homeless takes on new urgency as downtown—the regional center for finance, the arts and government—becomes redeveloped. The homeless have become more visible, not just downtown but in surrounding communities.

The face of the homeless has changed over the years. Today many of them are children and families, young people and persons who are mentally ill. The Regional Task Force on the Homeless, of which I am vice-chairman, is rapidly attacking the many problems of the homeless, from adequate emergency shelter to job training. This is a regional problem with social and economic impacts for all of us.

HERITAGE PARK

Heritage Park, the County's preserve for Victorian homes in Old Town, is undergoing some changes with the restoration of Temple Beth Israel, the oldest synagogue in Southern California. With state and county funds matched by private donations, the temple is expected to be restored within the next year. When completed, the temple will be used for non-denominational public events, receptions and weddings. It will also include a permanent exhibit on the history of religion in San Diego.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

After months of research and work by a 52-member advisory panel, the Board of Supervisors approved my call for the creation of a Human Relations Commission for San Diego County. The 15-member commission is charged with the responsibility of fostering understanding and mutual respect among the county's many diverse groups and communities so as to avoid intergroup tension and violence.

Until the Board action, San Diego was the only major urban area in California without a commission. As San Diego grows it will continue to attract people from many different backgrounds, beliefs, races and lifestyles. If we are to prosper we must learn to understand our differences without resorting to violence.

FREEWAY CALL BOXES

At my urging, the County has strongly urged the state to create a highway call box program for San Diego to aid stranded motorists. As an interim measure County employees have been instructed to assist motorists in trouble by using the two-way radio in public vehicles for emergency assistance.

THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

AIDS—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—continues to be this County's major public health crisis. Just as the rest of the country has been impacted by this deadly disease for which there is no known cure, San Diego has felt the devastating affects of this public health tragedy.

Last year I was responsible for the County providing facilities for the San Diego AIDS Project to conduct counseling and education efforts aimed at preventing the spread of AIDS. This year the Board of Supervisors will pay attention to this disease in a concerted effort to stop AIDS and to help those afflicted by it.

TOXIC WASTE

One of the greatest urban environmental problems of the 1980s is toxic waste from the many everyday products we use around our homes, such as household cleaners, and garden pesticides, as well as those wastes generated by large industries. Unfortunately for small businesses and homeowners, the costs of proper disposal are too high. I was pleased to spearhead County efforts to create a pilot program to assist small businesses and residents through a coordinated pick-up program. The Small Generators Hazardous Waste program has now become an on-going program of County government in cooperation with the City of San Diego and several sewer and water districts.

The Board of Supervisors has approved my proposal to form a Joint City/County Pesticide Task Force which will develop solutions and alternatives to the usage of pesticides in densely populated residential neighborhoods.

Currently I am a member of the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Board which I helped create is responsible for determining disposal sites for hazardous waste materials. This undoubtedly will continue to be both a major land use and environmental issue, and my participation on this Board helps ensure that San Diego will maintain its high quality of life.

Highlights of 1985 State of The County Message

On January 15, 1985, I delivered the annual State of the County address. Here are some excerpts:

ON TRAUMA CARE:

We begin the first full year of what could be the most sophisticated, state-of-the-art network of trauma centers in the United States. This will be a time of fine-tuning and careful observation. The County will monitor these facilities to determine the level of adherence to strict standards and maintain accessibility to everyone who needs this critical care, regardless of income or location.

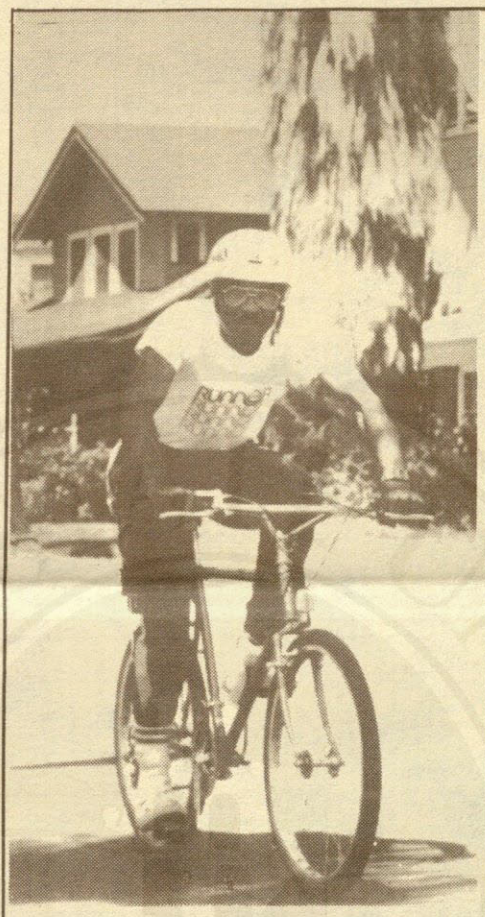
ON WORKFARE:

The county's workfare program was given a new lease on life last year when the legislature extended our pilot program tying some welfare benefits to public service work. (This program has just recently been extended another year.) Also, after three years, our effort to obtain reimbursement for Food Stamp Workfare administrative costs was successful, but only after proving that for only $348,000 in administrative costs, the County of San Diego was able to save the federal government $2 million annually.

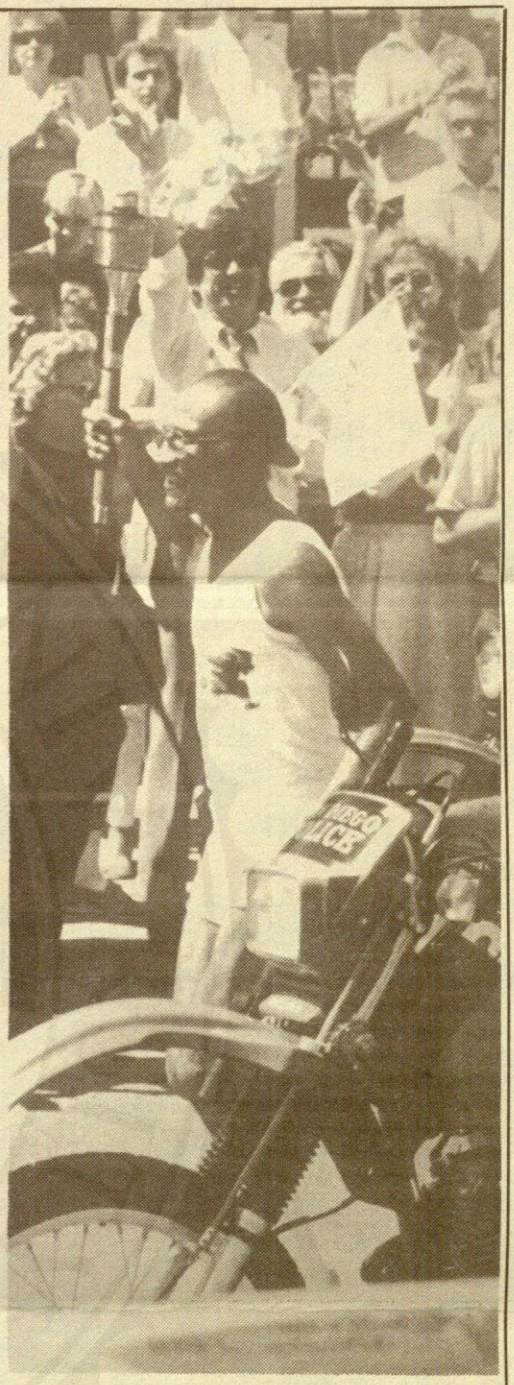
ON DRUG ABUSE AND YOUTH:

Eighty percent of youth in county detention facilities were either under the influence of drugs when they committed the crime or committed the offense to get money for drugs. Too many young people have given up on their lives. This malaise, fostered by drugs, the inattention of frightened and sometimes abusive or absent parents, and peer pressure leads to frustration and hopelessness. This failure to imagine life beyond despair locks too many into a treadmill of failure. Where death by violent means—knifing, shoot and drug overdose—is almost considered death by natural causes.

We need to put more emphasis on eliminating the causes of delinquency—drug abuse, child abuse and learning disabilities—to avoid the escalating costs of the criminal justice system which must arrest, convict and incarcerate youthful offenders, who grow up to be adult offenders.



ON THE ROAD. One of the joys of living in the Fourth Supervisorial District is its neighborhoods. And one of the most enjoyable means of seeing them is on bicycle. Luckily we have the kind of weather that allows this type of physical recreation nearly everyday. (above)



CARRYING THE TORCH. The 1984 Olympics filled this country with pride and there was perhaps no greater honor for me than to be able to carry the Olympic torch through part of the Fourth Supervisorial District. (right).

Williams' Appointees Chair County Boards

Much of the advice, suggestions and recommendations the County receives from the public comes from those citizens who sit on the County's nearly 100 boards, commissions and advisory committees.

As Supervisor I make many appointments to these citizen committees and try as much as possible to appoint qualified people from the Fourth Supervisorial District.

This year I am particularly pleased to see that many of the county's advisory boards are chaired by people whom I had the pleasure of appointing.

Serving as chairman of the County Planning Commission is Alan Zieguas, executive vice-president of the Stoorza Company. Amina Farwell-Jones is chair of the county's Commission on the Status of Women. She is a counselor for the Child Resource Center.

Avis Johnson is chair of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee, and Dorothy Lipnick is vice-chair. Beatrice Kemp heads the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals.

Adolphus Reed is president of the San Diego Planetarium Authority. Daniel Morales is acting chair of the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board, while Carol Corr presides over the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

City Councilman William Jones is chair of the Citizens Charter Review Panel, and Elsa Saxod is vice-chair.

If you are interested in serving on a county board or commission please contact my office, and we'll send you information on what appointments are available and how you can apply.

WHO TO CALL

Supervisor Leon Williams **236-4444**
General County Information 236-2121
Air Pollution Complaints 565-3912
Animal Control 236-4250
Area Agency on Aging 560-2500
Chief Administrative Officer 236-2722
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors .....
..... 236-2321
Community Involvement Office .. 236-2211
*Coroner 565-5645
County Clerk 236-3200
Courts-Municipal
Traffic 236-2521
Criminal 236-2551
Civil 236-2535
Courts-Superior
Jury Commissioner 236-2677
Juvenile Court 560-3506
Family Counseling Services ... 236-3781
Probate 236-3781
Arbitration 236-5098
*Disaster Preparedness 565-3490
District Attorney 236-2329
Employee Services 236-5256
Health Services
Listings for Physical and Public Health Services are extensive. Please consult your telephone directory for specific offices.
Crisis Team. 24-hour/7-day mental health information and crisis intervention ..
..... **236-3339**
Toll Free ..... Zenith 3339
*Marshal 236-3810
*Parks and Recreation 565-3600
Pesticide Use Enforcement 565-5774
Probation 560-2361
Public Administrator 565-5494
Recorder 236-2695
Vital Records 236-2670
Registrar of Voters 565-5800
*Sheriff 565-5200
Social Services
General Information 292-9371
***Child Abuse** **560-2191**
Welfare Fraud 560-3711
Tax Collector
Property Tax Information 236-3121
Unsecured Tax Information ... 236-3161
Veterinarian 565-5395

*Can be called 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

No taxpayer money was used to print or mail this newsletter. It is paid for from contributions by companies and individuals who support good government.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU. I am proud of the people who help me serve you one the Board of Supervisors. From left, they are, Kathy Anderson, Susan Smith, Janice Lipowcan, Wes Pratt, Neil Good, Raquel Beltran, Jo Jordan and Jimmie Slack. Whenever you need assistance or have a question, do not hesitate to talk to one of these people in my office. Our job is to serve you.

County Hotel Money Helps Local Institutions

Regional cultural institutions—many of them located in the heart of the Fourth Supervisorial District—received significant increases in County funding this year.

Over the last two years funds to such institutions as the Museum of Art and COMBO have been slashed by the Board. But this year, with a new Board, funds for most regional institutions were increased.

Programs and institutions within the Fourth District to receive funding include the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Museum of Art, the Museum of Man, the Museum of Natural History, the San Diego Historical Society, the San Diego Symphony, COMBO, the Whaley House in Old Town, Natural History Museum, the Hall of Champions, San Diego Aerospace Museum, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Kingdom Day Parade.

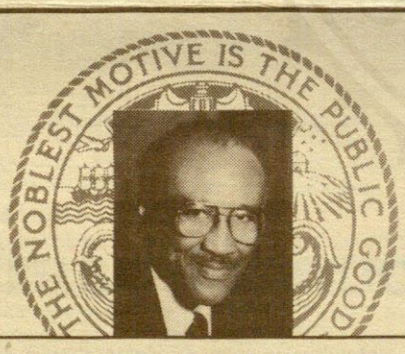
Previous to the Board's action, many organizations within the Fourth District received additional money based on my recommendation. They include support for street fairs in City Heights, Hillcrest and Normal Heights, Interfest, the Columbus Day Parade, Gaslamp Quarter Council, the Downtown Marketing Consortium, the Central Balboa Park Association, and the creation of a building fund for a bandstand at Heritage Park.

Budget

Continued *from Page 1.*

parks, roads and community services.

Most of what we want to do depends upon our ability to pay for it. County government still has no source of stable funding. This hampers our ability to plan much beyond one fiscal year. While this year's budget is better than most recent ones, increasing costs, particularly in the criminal justice system, added state mandates without any increase in revenues, growing social problems, and the costs of maintaining a basic infrastructure makes county government vulnerable.



SUPERVISOR LEON WILLIAMS

"TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE"

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