14em#8

## City of Carson City Agenda Report

Date Submitted: February 11, 2008 Agenda Date Requested: Feb 21, 2008

Time Requested: 15 min

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Carson City Health and Human Services Vicky Fogelman, DVM, MPH, Director

**Subject Title:** Action to Determine that the vacant Environmental Health Specialist is a critical and essential position to the City.

### **Staff Summary:**

On Oct 18, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved a hiring freeze on all open City positions and asked that no vacant positions, with exception of certain Public Safety, Courts and grant funded positions be filled without specific Board approval. The Carson City Health and Human Services Department is asking the Board to determine that the Environmental Health Specialist is critical and essential to the City.

Carson City Health and Human Services is the Local Health Authority for Carson City-County. This Local Health Authority emerged from the Carson City Environmental Health Department in 2003. The purpose of the Environmental Health program is to protect the public from disease and injury due to environmental factors. Environmental Health performs critical services for the City-County, including mosquito prevention and control, building and restaurant plan review, food safety training and inspections, private well and sewer inspections, response to hazardous chemical events and disease outbreak surveillance and investigation.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)  () Resolution () Ordinance  () Formal Action/Motion () Other (Specify)					
Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: () Yes (_X) No					
Recommended Board Action:					

I move to determine that the vacant Environmental Health Specialist is a critical and essential position to the City.

### **Explanation for Recommended Board Action:**

The approval of this vacant position will allow Carson City to recruit and hire for this essential public health position and not cause significant impact to current workloads or service to our community.

If we do not fill this position, we will have to cut existing services, including establishment inspections, foodhandler training, plan reviews and mosquito abatement by approximately 33%. Although we will continue to prioritize services by health risk even if the position is unfilled, we will nevertheless increase our community's probability of exposure to preventable disease. We

will also undoubtedly generate more complaints from citizens due to slower response times in certain areas such as plan review, foodborne illness investigations and mosquito abatement.

# Applicable Statue, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation:

NRS 439.350 **CCMC 9.01.100** 

# Fiscal Impact:

Not filling the vacancy for fiscal year 08-09 would result in a saving of \$55,488 (annual salary and fringe).

# Tunlanation of L

Explanation of Impact: This position was approved and funded in FY 07-08 budget, and was considered essential in previous budget cuts. There will be a cost savings of about \$9000 due to salary savings for a time position was vacant. There may be additional savings if the new employee is hired at a entry level.  Carson City Health and Human Services has satisfied the request for budget reduction in fisher year 08-09, with this position projected in the 08-09 budget.	th Ic
Funding Source: General Fund	
Alternatives: None	
Supporting Material: Support letter and impact statement	
Prepared By: Vicky Fogelman/Dustin Boothe	
Reviewed By:    Date: 2/2/08	
Board Action Taken:	
Motion: 1) Aye/Nay	_
,	_
	<del>-</del>
(Vote Recorded By)	



# CARSON CITY, NEVADA

CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

FROM: Vicky Fogelman, CCHHS Director

11 February, 2008

TO: Larry Werner, City Manager

Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Impact of Not Filling Environmental Health Specialist Vacancy

Attached is an impact statement from the Office of Environmental Health re: the proposal to leave our currently vacant Environmental Health position unfilled. Even with this position filled, we are operating at the minimum level recommended by national public health experts to ensure the health and safety of the public with regard to food and water safety, transmission of communicable disease, and vector-borne disease prevention. If we do not fill this position, we will have to cut existing services, including establishment inspections, foodhandler training, plan reviews and mosquito abatement by approximately 33%. Although we will continue to prioritize services by health risk even if the position is unfilled, we will nevertheless increase our community's probability of exposure to preventable disease. We will also undoubtedly generate more complaints from citizens due to slower response times in certain areas such as plan review.

Please consider the impact statement included with this letter when making your decisions regarding this vacant position.

Sincerely,

Vicky L. Fogelman, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Director, Carson City Health and Human Services

Carson City Health & Human Services

900 E Long Street • Carson City, Nevada 89706

## Carson City Environmental Health Position Reduction Impact

As a Public Service Department, Environmental Health has the responsibility to provide over 2200 services to our community, including routine inspections of permitted establishments, i.e. food service, public pools, hotels/motels, RV parks, Child Care facilities, Public and Private Schools, Bottled Water Plants, Tattoo, Permanent Makeup and Body piercing establishments, as well as temporary food establishments, and construction and compliance inspections. We also provide over 700 man hours per year for mosquito abatement.

There will be significant impact, including a 33% reduction in public services if we do not fill this vacant position (annual salary and fringe \$55,488):

- Service Reduction (33%)
  - 1. Reduced Inspection frequencies of permitted establishments (Food, Child Care, RV parks, Hotels/Motels, etc.)
    - a. Food Establishments
      - i. 50% reduction in inspection Frequencies, instead current inspection frequencies of 1, 2, 3, and 4 per year, we would reclassify and inspect to the following frequencies:

ii.	Risk 1	1
iii.	Risk 2	1
iv.	Risk 3	2
v.	Risk 4	2

- b Schools 2 times per year per NRS 444.
- c. Other inspection services will stay at the same frequency (once per year); however, if workload becomes too heavy, we may cut back to complaint only inspections on RV parks and Hotel/Motels.
- 2. Notification of food recalls.

Notification of recalled processed foods may be delayed.

- 3. **Mosquito abatement**-a reduction in response time to complaints and treatment of new mosquito breeding areas. Reduction in surveillance and the number of abatement treatments
- 4. **Plan review-**an increase in the plan review process by four (4) days.
- 5. **Complaints**-will be answered on a prioritized basis, but will not be a high priority, unless imminently dangerous. This will likely generate more complaints to City Hall.

- 6. **Temp food events-** EH will be able to spend less time educating foodhandlers for these highly vulnerable temporary events and approving temporary facilities.
- 7. **Public Pools-**Seasonal opening- 2 times per year; year round opening, 4 times per year
- 8. **Reduction in Food Safety Classes** offered to the public. This means fewer foodhandlers available to local restaurants.

### • Public Health Impact

- A reduction in sanitary inspections for Carson City permitted establishments means less opportunity to educate and correct individuals about improper sanitary conditions and practices within their establishments. This is particularly important due to the high employee turnover rate and cultural differences in sanitary practices by many personnel working in these types of facilities.
- Temporary food facilities require intensive worker training for proper foodhandling practices due to lack of knowledge and field conditions. Less time will be able to be spent in this area without a full-time FTE. The result is a higher likelihood of unsafe conditions which result in a higher probability of food and/or waterborne disease outbreaks affecting community members using these facilities. In addition, fewer temporary facilities may be approved due to lack of time necessary to review applications.
- Delay in responding to mosquito complaints and new breeding sites may result in increased human and animal exposure to mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus and other arboviral diseases and in increased complaints to City Hall re: poor mosquito abatement

#### • Additional Impacts

- Decreasing the number of food safety classes may delay hiring of food/bar personnel for permitted establishments, since this is a requirement for all facilities
- Increasing plan review time means longer time to complete the entire process for building review. This can generate complaints from contractors, as well as home and store owners.