



CITY OF SACRAMENTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
**RECEIVED**  
JAN 29 1981

WILLIAM R. POWELL  
FIRE CHIEF

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE  
915 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95814  
CITY HALL - ROOM 3 TEL. (916) 449-5267

January 29, 1981

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Gary Seabrook Correspondence

I have reviewed the department file on Mr. Seabrook's correspondence which dates back to August 7, 1979, and I have attached a copy of Fire Marshal Charles' memorandum regarding Mr. Seabrook's proposals.

Mr. Seabrook has also presented proposals to two County fire districts which have not been able to use his programs.

In conversation with the State Fire Marshal regarding statements that there was money available in grant form to develop a program in low income or minority communities, I was informed that no grant money was available; however if a workable program were developed, they might be able to develop funds for an employees wage during a pilot program period.

Unfortunately the fire department has been accused of turning deaf ears to Mr. Seabrooks proposals, not only in correspondence to the City Council but also through the news media. We have tried to convey to Mr. Seabrooks through meetings that the Fire Marshal held with him, that an enforcement program that fined homeowners and closed businesses due to violations was not workable.

Mr. Seabrooks has a burning desire to work in Fire Prevention and to help the low income and minority communities deal with their fire prevention problems. This is very commendable and we can only hope that many people are motivated with his enthusiasm.

Currently we are modifying a pilot community fire prevention program that was tried in the south area with limited success. It is our intention to take this modified program back to the same area.

Our initial plans called for trying to solicit senior citizens for the program. It is possible that Mr. Seabrooks could be utilized in this program if we can secure the funds.

Office of the City Clerk

FEB 3 1981

City Council

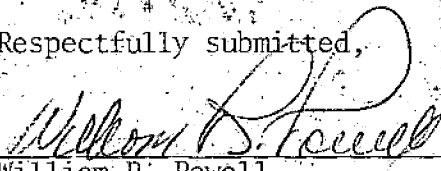
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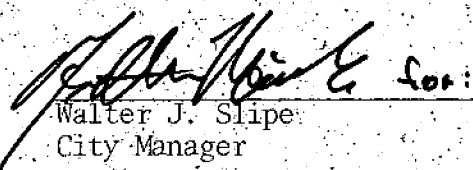
RECOMMENDATION

For City Council information.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William R. Powell  
Fire Chief

For City Council Information:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter J. Slipe  
City Manager

WRP:nm  
Attachment

February 3, 1981  
All Districts

January 8, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: WILLIAM R. POWELL, FIRE CHIEF  
FROM: RAY CHARLES, FIRE MARSHAL  
SUBJECT: GARY SEABROOKS FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM

A copy of the attached was made available to all members of the City Council and others by Gary Seabrooks. To my knowledge this is the third time Seabrooks has presented a "program" to the Council for approval. Prior to the initial program he made contact with our office on two occasions seeking employment. He was once referred to Personnel and the second time he was referred to me by Bob Roark.

The first program presented August 7, 1979 related to the weed and debris problem in the Oak Park area. He stated desires at that time to revamp our weed abatement program. He was critical of the manner in which the weed abatement program was being conducted. A review of his proposal was determined to be non applicable.

The second program presented June 6, 1980 was entitled "Fire Safety For Low Income Community". That program proposed to provide fire prevention information and education to residents of low income communities. A review of the material disclosed that it was an enforcement program rather than an educational program. He proposed a fine for homeowners that neglected to eliminate identified hazards. His program was designed to shut down commercial establishments for periods of 2 to 6 months for non compliance with fire codes.

In conversation with him relative to the second program I discussed the problems he would likely encounter in attempting to enforce fire codes in residences and in business establishments. I made him aware of the fact that we are without legal authority to enter a residence to require a homeowner to make changes we may feel are hazardous. We also discussed the impossible task of closing a business establishment for minor fire code violations. The program was virtually impossible to implement. On June 9, 1980 I advised him that his proposal was not worthy of my endorsement and I would recommend that no additional consideration be given to this particular format.

His most recent program (copy attached) is somewhat confusing to me as I am unable to determine what he is proposing. It appears he is seeking an apology from our City Council for my actions relative to his presentation on June 6, 1980. He also cites facts and figures that have been extracted from various publications that do not at all assist in providing a clearer understanding of his program. He states objectives of the program but he does not explain how he plans to accomplish these objectives.

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*My interpretation of this material leads me to believe he has neglected to include information relative to the program. It is therefore difficult for me to make additional comments. I welcome your comments.*



RAY CHARLES  
FIRE MARSHAL

RC/cc

CC: files