

Dear Council Members:

On June 6, 1980, Garry L. Seabrooks brought up a subject regarding fire safety in a low-income Community. As you all know the city fire marshal Ray Charles turn it down. At that time the fire Safety Program wouldn't had cost the city a cent. The fire safety program resulted in some badly needed change in the areas of fire safety education, community fire hazards, and during school and after school fire safety programs in the low-income community. The movement to make low-income communities part of the fire safety society met resistance from Ray Charles. This program marked the first step in a crusade way to bring low-income communities in the areas of thinking fire safety.

In addition here are some facts and references to my argument, and I believe that, the city Council owes me an explanation that is as precise and believable as the Council can make it, because if the following reasons aren't clear, I am going to fight each Council district with the community support on the fire issues.

**APPROVED**  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

**JAN 13 1981**

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

## FACTS-REFERENCES

The experience of every fire department confirms what statistics only suggest: that a disproportionate number of residential fires-and fire related deaths occur in low-income neighborhoods. It is not difficult to see why- crowded conditions, dilapidated building, unsafe heaters, and the heavy use of alcohol, all contribute to a higher incidence of fire and a heavier toll in injuries and deaths. The higher proportions of working mothers means more children are left unattended and, hence more exposed to fire accidents. The ignorance among the poor about fire hazards is matched by the indifference or inability of landlords to get rid of the hazards.

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Comparisons of deaths  
from the Vietnam War and fire in U.S.  
1961-1972

143,550 Deaths from fires  
45,925 Deaths from the war

FACTS and REFERENCES:  
America Burning National Committee of Fire Prevention and Control

## Facts-References

The National Commission of Fire Prevention and Control now the (U.S. Fire Administration) report America Burning.....the causes of the American fire problem are numerous. But the roots are fed by ignorance and Indifference.

But indifference exists where it is least excusable. For example, there are those in the fire services who are unaware of the technological state of the art in their field. There are fire department administrators who pay lip service to fire prevention and then do little to promote it

- The Federal Government also has been largely indifferent to the fire problem. The Federal programs that exist (some of which are excellent) touch only small portions of the total fire program.

Lastly, the American public indifferent to and ignorant of the heavy toll of destructive fire.

In addition the Commission given recognition to the important of the fire safety education. Stating the following:

Among the many measures that can be taken to reduce fire losses, perhaps none is more important than educating people about fire. Americans must be made aware of the magnitude of fire's toll and it's threat to them personally. They must know how to minimize the risk of fire in their daily surrounding. They must know how to cope with fire quickly and effectively once it has started.

Reference: Managing Fire Service 1979.

## Facts-Reference

Population: The demand for fire protection services parallels the rate of growth of a community.

Socideconomic: Fire incident rates increase in proportion the the number of residents on Welfare.

It is up to the elected representatives the Mayors and the council members who make the decisions as to how safe our communities will be.

Congress passed Public Law 93-498 the Fire Prevention and Control Act. It set forth major purposes of reducing fire loss through better fire prevention and control, supplementing existing programs of State and Local government. The grants come from the U.S. Public Education office of the Fire Administration, it is to educate the public and to over come public indifference as to fire and fire prevention while hoping to reduce fire related deaths and injuries.

Reference: Managing Fire Service 1979.

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Overall fire death rates are Elderly, Very Young, and Blacks. The minority death rates are 3 to 1 over whites.

Muliple problems associated with poverty and housing conditions undoubtedly contribute to the higher risk to minorities. Fire prevention programs should be targeted toward these high risk groups, just as they have been for the elderly and children. The minority deserves more programs in fire prevention than it has received.

Reference: Fire In The United States.

An effective education program is based on relating the fire problem of the low-income Community, (using information gained from fire accident reports) to the individual need of its residents. In other words, before an individual will learn he must want to know about the topic involved and must want to know how it is important to him personally. The use of national statistics on fire losses, fire hazards and cost of fire protection is not that impressive to a person who is not directly involved with fire protection and prevention. A resident in a community wants to know what the problem is (fire losses, hazards and cost of fire protection) within his immediate living area. But before this knowledge becomes important to him, he must be made aware that there is a problem.

The fact that those of us involved in fire protection and prevention know there is a fire problem does not mean that the residents of our communities are also aware of it. For the most part, the resident's exposure is to the fire down the street, or to the fire shown on the t.v., or it may be only to the fact that the fire department is requesting more money for its budget, or the person may be a business owner who is aware that the fire inspectors show up from time to time to inspect his business, and at times cost him money. The purpose of this section is to show how the programs I've developed can best educate the low-income communities and make sure that the people know that there is a fire problem locally and nationally. In addition the programs can indicate how the people of our low-income communities can become involved in solving fire problems, and give specific methods for personally taking care of their individual fire hazards.

The methods that I've chose will vary, depending on our community's needs, the financial resources available and the city (government and private) participation. Regardless of how simple or complex the program for fire safety in a low-income community, the basic tools are communications and people involvement.

*Harry DeLoach*

#### PURPOSE

To educate low-income minorities in fire safety.

To reduce incidents of fire through proper protective and prevented measures.

To extend the minorities concept of fire safety at home and in the community.

#### OBJECTIVES

Minorities will understand the principle of fire protection and prevention.

Minorities will understand how to prevent fire hazards with an inspection.

Minorities will recognized the job of the fire bureau.

Minorities will know the emergency procedures to take in the event of a fire.

#### OVERALL

This fire safety program is aimed at providing fire safety information and education resources, in low-income communities, where fire safety representative efforts are limited or non-existent.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRE SAFETY COORDINATOR

A centralized agency relating to low-income communities fire hazards and protection measures. To translate some important aspects of the systems approach to fire prevention and protection into a minority vocabulary. This translation is aimed at fire Authorities, who are largely unfamiliar with the life-styles of a low-income community. The specific objective is to "learn from fire" so that the community may deal comfortably with the fire authorities and be able to cooperate and co-design with the help of fire professionals, as well as to prevent fire early in the design process.

The exacting nature of fire safety coordinating is such that only people of minority oriented who are willing to work in a low-income community to prepare themselves to handle the job can succeed. The indifferent person, regardless of mental and physical ability, cannot compete with people who are interested, willing and equally fit.

The overall focus of the Fire Safety Coordinator is to:

- (1) Provide interests in making the low-income residents aware of fire safety, so they are less apt to become a fire death statistical as in the past.
- (2) Provide a clear and present programs to explore and develop more effective fire safety measures in the light of existing and foreseeable conditions in the low-income Community.
- (3) Provide special programs for special fire problems in the low-income Community.
- (4) Provide information and Educational Resources of fire safety only.
- (5) Develop techniques that will promote fire safety important, such as clean ups, improvements, block parties, special guest speakers, and so on.
- (6) Establish lines of communication between the Fire - Authority, City Planners, and the low-income Communities.
- (7) Provide a program during school for K-3rd grades and after school for 4-6 or 7-12 grades where fire related problems are existing.

TYPE OF PROGRAM	WHERE	PERSONS SUITABLE	PROGRAMS ELEMENTS AND DESCRIPTION
Fire Safety	in School	K-3rd grades	Learning Aids book-demonstrations Teachers shows the make-up of childrens safety and what to be aware of.
Fire Safety and 3.5	After School and in the community	4-12 grades	Printed materials-speakers-16mm films-demonstration-participation. The Fire Safety Coordinator relates the many different fire safety educational messages.  Demonstrations-participations-the community students clean up and make improvements of the community (fire-related).
Fire Safety	in homes	Adult	Learning Aids-printed material. The Fire Safety Coordinator goes house to house, utilizing data basis on information and to arrive at the conclusion as to what educational effort would be most effective to the low-income community.
Fire Safety	to be announced	Open to the community	Printed materials-Fire Safety Activities involving students and guests-films. The Fire Safety Coordinator Program invited the community to a Fire Safety seminar.



## CONTENTS

Objectives .....	(1)
Introduction to the Fire Safety Coordinator.....	(2)
Method Recommended .....	(3)
Planned Materials for a low-income community.....	(4)
Education Sections.....	(5)
Arson.....	
Residential Fire.....	
Stove Fire.....	
Scald Burns.....	
Flammable Liquids.....	
Flame Resistant Sleepwear and Clothes Fit.....	
Classification of Burns and Emergency First Aid...	
Community Services.....	(6)
Fire Prevention Sheet.....	( )
Fire Protection Sheet.....	( )
Community Fire Report.....	( )
General Information.....	(7)
Residential Fires and Facts.....	( )
Fire Control and Conditions In The Community.....	( )
Safety For Annually Celegrations.....	( )
Electrical Hazards and Safety Measures.....	( )
Best Fire Protection For Your Occupancy.....	( )
HAND OUT MATERIALS.....	(8)
Emergency Numbers.....	( )
Home Fire Escape List.....	( )
Burns First Aid.....	( )
How To Save Yourself In A Fire Situation.....	( )
Evaluation Sheet .....	( )

## CONCLUSION

A few months ago, the City Fire Administration conducted a fire program, in Lynn Robie's district (in a pocket area). The program was a failure and one person show up (actually that person was dragged in). I feel sorry for Lynn Robie for two reasons, (1) the city fire department administration is noted for buildings inspection, code enforcement, building plan review and the suppression force: any type of public fire programs (especially in a low-income area) will have to be prepared with specialties and recognized preparation. (2) There was no second solution or some means of achievement and satisfaction to involve the community, another words the problems will just get worse, and there is no program to turn too-wrong.

There is a program that can find ways of interpreting to low-income communities a more accurate and complete understanding of what fire safety can do to save lives. I would like to demonstrate my program because all of my research and programs are designed for low-income communities. I need a target area and I am asking the City Council to make the final decision:

Thanks

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# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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LORRAINE MAGANA  
CITY CLERK

### MEMORANDUM

TO: WALTER J. SLIPE, CITY MANAGER

FROM: LORRAINE MAGANA, CITY CLERK *LM*

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF ITEM NO. 18, COUNCIL AGENDA OF JANUARY 13, 1981

DATE: JANUARY 13, 1981

Pursuant to Council action, the following matter was referred to you:

Garry L. Seabrooks of 7275 Fifteenth Street, re  
fire safety in low income communities. Requested  
report back on February 3, 1981.

sj

cc: Fire Department