

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-106

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROHNERT PARK UNANIMOUSLY DECLARING A FISCAL EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF ROHNERT PARK

WHEREAS, the City of Rohnert Park has demonstrated excellent fiscal stewardship yet the declining economy and Sacramento money grabs have taken a significant toll on our ability to continue providing vital services to residents that maintain our quality of life and protect the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento politicians have already taken millions of dollars from Rohnert Park –reducing the City’s revenue by \$1.4 million in the past year alone – and these cuts present a significant fiscal challenge to our City; and

WHEREAS, the City has slashed its budget by cutting service positions, reforming employee pensions, purchasing essentials with grant funding, conserving energy to keep costs down, and participating in purchase pools with other cities to lower expenses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rohnert Park’s excellent fiscal management continues to be recognized with audit awards, including the Governmental Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the past thirty fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the City has had to freeze positions in all City departments, including a dramatic reduction in the Public Safety Department – from 80 Public Safety Officers to the current total of 57 today. This reduction in Public Safety Officers has increased our response times in both the police and fire departments. Increased response times to 911 calls potentially places our citizens at risk in emergency situations where every second counts.

WHEREAS, the City has projected a significant General Fund operating deficit over the next several years should current economic trends continue; and

WHEREAS, the significant cost saving measures the City has employed in recent years to address the ongoing budget crisis will not be sufficient to maintain and protect essential City services and avoid significant service disruptions which would have a negative impact upon the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, in planning for our next fiscal year budget the City Council wants to ensure that the public is aware of this fiscal emergency and that City staff continues to look for the necessary cuts to services that we will be forced to make.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Rohnert Park as follows:

1. The City is experiencing an existing and immediate funding crisis, which is the result of factors largely outside of its control, including national and local economic trends, rapid increases in the cost of employee retirement and health insurance benefits, decreases in revenue from existing taxes and fees, increases in charges by the County of Sonoma, and unpredictable State takeaways of local revenue.

2. The City has taken significant steps to reduce its operational costs including: cutting service positions, including public safety officers, negotiating salary reductions with all staff members, reforming employee pensions, and implementing cost saving and efficiencies by consolidating services and eliminating unnecessary overhead.

3. Unless staff and service levels are at least partially restored, public facilities and property will not be properly maintained, public safety standards will diminish crime and violence will increase, the community will not have adequate and safe recreational opportunities, businesses and families will be discouraged from moving to, or remaining in, Rohnert Park, and the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Rohnert Park will be endangered.

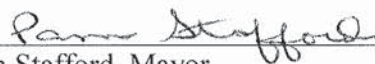
4. Because of that threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, an emergency exists in the City, as the term "emergency" is used in Article XIII C, section 2(b) of the California Constitution. The City must immediately address that emergency by ensuring that the City has the resources necessary to preserve the public health, safety, and welfare.

5. Accordingly, the City Council unanimously finds and declares the existence of a fiscal emergency within the City.

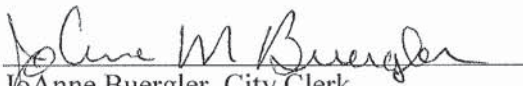
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 25th day of June, 2013



CITY OF ROHNERT PARK


Pam Stafford, Mayor

ATTEST


JoAnne Buerger, City Clerk

AHANOTU: AYE BELFORTE: AYE MACKENZIE: AYE CALLINAN: AYE STAFFORD: AYE
AYES: (5) NOES: (0) ABSENT: (0) ABSTAIN: (0)