

Deputy Controller  
Peg Stevenson

July 28, 2008

RE: ballot measure

Greetings,

I am writing to express our campaign's concern that the fiscal impact statement in the voter information pamphlet reflect all indirect as well as direct costs of prostitution enforcement incurred in the course of arresting and prosecuting for prostitution in San Francisco and running anti-prostitution programs, including but not limited to the following:

- All overtime pay collected by law enforcement personnel as reimbursement for participating in sting operations or other prostitution-related work.
- All administrative and other costs incurred by the DA's office, the Public Defenders office, and the SAGE Project that are related to the First Offender Prostitution Program or any other program or policy that in any way coerces participation or promotes anti-prostitution ideology.
- All costs relating to prostitution-related community court cases, including pay and benefits for police officers attending these proceedings.
- All state or federal funds being spent by city agencies or city-funded non-profits for any of the purposes mentioned in this letter.
- All court costs associated with prosecuting prostitution, including benefits and pension of judges, court personnel and public defenders, as well as the wages of any police officers or other officials making court appearances
- All costs associated with jailing of people for prostitution-related offenses, including the costs of feeding, incarcerating, and medically providing for prisoners, and the pay, benefits and pension of jail personnel, as well as costs the Sheriff's Department incurs for 'hold and release' arrests in which people are just picked up and held in jail overnight and released without being charged. (One worker reported that she was arrested and held overnight 133 times in a 2-year period. We've noticed over the years that many of these arrests are not showing up on people's arrests records but certainly the Sheriff's department should have records of these kinds of 'hold and release' costs.)

- All costs associated with the probation of people arrested for prostitution, including the pay and benefits of parole officers and the costs of subsequent court appearances.
- All costs associated with the deportation of people arrested for prostitution, including transportation costs and the costs of detaining people waiting to be deported.
- All costs associated with issuing, enforcing, and litigating "stay away orders" whereby suspected or convicted prostitutes are told they cannot be on certain streets or in certain areas.
- All costs associated with writing and processing 'loitering with intent' tickets and the cost of litigating them in court. (I know of two people currently who have 3 such tickets apiece and they've been litigating their cases for two years in court and one is using a public defender.)
- All taxpayer moneys distributed to non-profit groups for the purposes of running programs in which prostitutes or their clients are required to participate in order to avoid other legal consequences. (Opponents of this measure have publicly stated that if the measure passes, it would cause a loss of funding to non-profits other than the SAGE Project Inc., the group contracted to run the First Offender Prostitution Program, such as the Asian Women's Shelter. Either their statements are false, or the Controller's statement needs to count such funds toward the total that the city would save if the measure passes.)
- All court costs associated with litigating or settling lawsuits based on the unequal enforcement of prostitution laws against workers in dance clubs versus independent workers.
- Any costs associated with city employees lobbying government regarding the enforcement of prostitution laws, such as SFPD or District Attorney's office personnel attending hearings of city bodies while "on the clock."

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We trust that you will duly research and include in the Controller's estimate of fiscal impact the various expenses noted above, along with any others of which you are aware, so that voters will have as accurate an assessment as possible of the full fiscal savings that would result from this measure passing.

Sincerely,

Maxine Doogan  
Proponent for ballot initiative