APPROVED: Meeting No. 22-97

ATTEST: Paula J. Jewell

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 07-97

February 3, 1997

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland on February 3, 1997, at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey
Councilmember James T. Marrinan
Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison
Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell, Deputy City Manager Julia Novak, Michelle Martin and Thomas E. Thomas (Assistants to the City Manager), Public Information Officer Rebecca Feaster, and Personnel Director Rich Hajewski.

Re: Worksession with Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Board of Directors

The Mayor and Council met with the following SCLC Board members: Christopher Hill, President of the Montgomery County Chapter, Dr. Jim Moone, Executive Director, SCLC Maryland State Chapter, Charles Doyer, Art Davis, Rose Prather, Oliver Morse, Joy Murorunkwere, and Dr. Sterling King, Chairman of the Board

of Directors. The SCLC Board requested this worksession with the Mayor and Council to discuss the following issues:

1. Budget Review - The City Manager outlined the overall budget process for SCLC Board members. He explained that for the first time, the City was completing supplemental sheets for the Fiscal Year 98 budget. The City was budgeting at zero funding. Mr. Hill inquired whether any increases in funding would be made to outside agencies for FY'98. Mayor Krasnow responded that requests from outside agencies were now being submitted. Sixty percent of the requests were for the same funding as the prior fiscal year and forty percent of the outside agencies requested an increase. Mr. Kuckkahn urged the SCLC to get their request in within the next three to four weeks. Mr. Moone said that SCLC would need $5,000 for the Clinton Computer Program. The Board feels that the program needed to be expanded so that welfare participants (whose benefits are being decreased and/or eliminated) can be brought in as a training initiative to get them into the work force quickly. He reported that last year, the program had 8 clients and they are expecting 10 this year. He also said that the program provided a major service for the youth. The money requested was also needed to purchase software, as well as hardware with increased memory.

Mr. Morse questioned whether the COPS grant would mean that Chief Treschuk would be moved out of the Community Services Department. Mr. Kuckkahn clarified that the reorganization was not done as a cost-saving measure and therefore no

such change was expected as a result of the grant. Mr. Morse said he heard reports that some residents were hesitant to take community service issues to the Police Chief. Mayor Krasnow said that if the Mayor and Council got any feeling that the reorganization was not working, they would discontinue the arrangement. The Mayor and Council would like to see a report of how the reorganization was working; the report should show upward and downward trends as well.

2. Lincoln Park Community Center - Mr. Hill reported that the Community Center was in need of parking lot lighting and other upgrades. This center is heavily used by the community. Ms. Murorunkwere said that the day care center in the Community Center was in desperate need of improvements. Mr. Hill inquired if there was money in the budget to make the improvements. Mr. Kuckkahn responded that the City was planning to do some work on the basement and make other upgrades for community use, e.g., creating a library. Staff also looked carefully at the idea of expanding the gym to full- size however, this is a very expensive project and they decided it was not practical at this time. Mr. Kuckkahn noted that the Mayor and Council were planning to build gyms centrally located in the City (in the Twinbrook and the Gude Drive areas).

3. Personnel Updates-Cultural Diversity - Mr. Hajewski said that during the past summer, all supervisors and any new employees who had influence over hiring decisions were put through a training program on the Affirmative Action Plan, the Equal Employment Opportunity policy and cultural diversity. In addition, all new personnel

promoted to supervisory positions must also take the training.

4. Affirmative Action Status Report - Mr. Hajewski distributed copies of the 1996 Affirmative Action Report and he noted that SCLC members were also mailed copies. Mr. Hajewski summarized what the report entailed. Mr. Moone expressed his concern regarding Proposition 209 (a measure pending in California) which he said was the degradation of Affirmative Action. He wondered how this would weaken Affirmative Action plans across the country. Mr. Moone reminded the Mayor and Council that the Plan should "mirror" itself with contracts that were awarded by the City. Mr. Moone mentioned a concern about some City employees who had come to SCLC and the NAACP with specific concerns about their supervisors. He said the employees were reluctant to take the issues directly to their supervisors.

Mr. Morris asked that the City encourage Penrose to hire minority contractors for the King Farm development. Mayor Krasnow suggested that staff set up a meeting with RCI and Penrose regarding this idea. Mr. Davis noted SCLC's plans to establish training for minority business owners.

5. EEO Issues - 1996 - Mr. Hajewski reported on the number of complaints received and he noted that there were no internal complaints for this reporting period. One complaint was filed directly to EEO however, the individual did not register the complaint with the City of Rockville within the 90-day time period. The "right to sue" letter was issued to the complainant; however, the person dropped the complaint.

Mr. Hill asked if he could privately meet with the City Manager to address specific concerns raised by City staff.

6. Good of the Order - Mr. Moone expressed a concern about traffic at Veirs Mill Road and Route 28. He noted that the landscaping at the intersection caused visual problems for some drivers, and he suggested that the City plant low growing vegetation as drivers can not always see other drivers who might be running the light. Mr. Kuckkahn said that he will have the City's Traffic Engineer take a look at the matter.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.