



M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 11, 1976  
TO: James G. Haughton, M.D.  
FROM: Leonidas H. Berry, M.D. *LHB*  
SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT CITY BUDGET HEARINGS

I recently attended a public hearing session on the City budget and one regular session of the City Council in session for the reading and hearing of the budget message from Mayor Daley. The Budget Director read certain sections of the budget during the time that I attended, which were met with challenges and criticisms by the minority block of city aldermen. I was particularly interested in funding for the City health programs and the reorganization of the Human Resources division. Alderman Cousins, finishing his term before assuming the judgeship to which he was recently elected, criticized very strongly the reduced budget for the Human Resources program and its reorganization so as to eliminate one or two top positions being held by minority group persons.

Criticism came from other aldermen and individuals from the public concerning the proposed raise in water rates. It was argued that this was a hidden source of income which would allow the budget developers to indicate a slight overall reduction in taxes which was, in fact, untrue.

The funds for all of the existing health programs seemed to receive very little criticism and to be headed for final approval.

If the matter of payment to the County for certain services provided to citizens primarily the responsibility of the City, it would seem that this matter should not be compromised by budget reductions in this area for 1977.

LHB:gd