

Agenda Items

Regular City Council Meeting

Meeting Date:

TITLE: Riverstone Health Clinic Resolution of Support

PRESENTED BY: Tina Volek, City Administrator

Department: City Hall Administration

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

John Felton, President and CEO of RiverStone Health Clinic, asked the City Council at its March 2, 2015, meeting to approve a resolution supporting U.S. Congressional action to maintain community health center program funding at its current level. Mr. Felton intends to take the resolution, along with others, to the Montana Congressional delegation during a March 19 meeting in Washington, D.C.

If the Congress does not extend the current program, funding could be reduced 70%, cutting capacity to serve about 9,000 RiverStone Health Clinic clients, Mr. Felton said. Statewide, 18 health centers serve about 40 communities and provide care to more than 120,000 Montanans, more than 10% of the state population.

The item would require a 3/4 majority vote from those present to be added to the March 9 agenda.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

City Council may:

- Approve the addition of the resolution to the March 9 agenda by at least a 3/4 vote of those present;
- Add the item to the agenda by a 3/4 vote of those present and amend the resolution; or
- Disapprove the addition or the resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no City cost related to approval of the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adding the resolution to the March 9 agenda by a 3/4 vote of those present and approving the document.

APPROVED BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Attachments

Health Care Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 15-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BILLINGS, MONTANA, CITY COUNCIL URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PREVENT REDUCTIONS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER FUNDING,

WHEREAS, Riverstone Health Clinic, as part of America's health center network, is a vital part of the nation's safety net, providing high-quality primary and preventative healthcare to nearly 20,000 local citizens, among the 23 million low-income people currently served by health centers; and

WHEREAS, RiverStone Health Clinic and other health centers have a documented record proving their success in improving health, reducing illness, and significantly reducing health costs; and

WHEREAS, the survival of RiverStone Health Clinic is critically important to the health and well-being of its patients and community; and

WHEREAS, through the Montana Family Medicine Residency and other training and education activities, RiverStone Health provides the community with an ongoing source of much-needed primary care physicians and other healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS, an impending Federal Health Center funding cliff threatens the viability of RiverStone Health Clinic and every other health center with a reduction of as much as 70% in annual federal grants, resulting in the loss of capacity to care for as many as 9,000 of RiverStone Health Clinic's neediest and most vulnerable patients; and

WHEREAS, scheduled reduction in the Teaching Health Center and National Health Service Corps threaten the availability of primary care providers to serve the ongoing healthcare needs of the community's residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA, that it encourages the President and Congress to take immediate action to:

- Prevent reductions in community health center funding;
- Reauthorize and fully fund the Teaching Health Center program at its current level; and
- Fully fund the National Health Service Corps at its current level.

BY:

ATTEST:

Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor

Cari Martin, City Clerk

Other Items

Yellowstone County



COMMISSIONERS
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February 24, 2015

Tina Volek, City Administrator
City of Billings
PO Box 1178
Billings, MT 59101

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2015

City Administrator

Re: City of Billings Request for School Zone Speed Limit on Grand Avenue near 48th Street West and on 48th Street West south of Grand Avenue

Dear Ms. Volek:

We received a letter from Mr. Dave Mumford of the City of Billings Public Works Department, dated February 12, 2015, asking for authorization for a school speed zone along portions of county roads near the Grace Montessori School.

We are aware that portions of Grand Avenue are under City of Billings' jurisdiction, and portions are under County jurisdiction. Additionally, we understand that 48th Street West is currently under County jurisdiction.

Our public works staff has reviewed this matter and offered their comments. We concur with those comments, and emphasize the following:

1. Yellowstone County will conduct an area wide speed study prior to September 2015, and reserves the right to modify the approach speed limits on our jurisdictional roads, and any portion of school speed zone limits under County jurisdiction;
2. The County will provide our speed study results to the City of Billings for their review and potential modifications to your speed zone and school speed zone limits on City jurisdictional roads;
3. The County will require that similar signage be placed on 48th Street West (south of Grand Avenue), as is being required by the City on Grand Avenue east and west of the school;
4. As this is a request by the City, we will require all costs for all signage, be provided by the City, or its developer, including any "bouncing ball" signage and electricity, (at no cost to Yellowstone County).

We further ask that you continue to work with our Public Works Department for all other items related to the review and installation of traffic control devices associated with your request. Thanks for your continued cooperation and coordination. Please contact us if you have further questions, or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Kennedy".

Bill Kennedy, Chair – Yellowstone County Commission

cc: Yellowstone County Public Works Department
Dave Mumford – City Public Works Department

mb: Letter to City of Billings - Grace Montessori School Addition