

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT 2004-2006 GREAT FALLS CITY STUDY COMMISSION

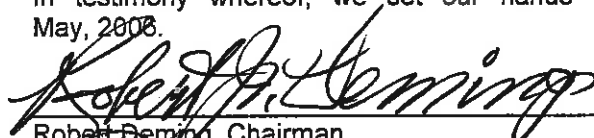
In addition to the final report, this supplementary report has been prepared by the Study Commission for review and action by the Great Falls City Commission. The four recommendations address the following areas:

- Additional methods of communicating to the public on disaster emergency plans and ways for community members to be prepared for emergencies.
- Efforts by federal, state, local agencies and health care organizations in the prevention and management of any public health emergency.
- Inter-local agreements and strengthened collaboration and cooperation with Cascade County and other public agencies.
- Neighborhood Council members to take office the first Tuesday of January (same day as the City Commission)


The Great Falls Local Government Study Commission strongly urges these recommendations be given a thorough review, and where appropriate, implementation to occur within one year of the date of this report.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Great Falls, do hereby certify that these are supplementary recommendations approved by the Study Commissioners of the City of Great Falls.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands this 24th day of May, 2008.




Robert Derrington, Chairman




Sharon Gerhart



Marie Mares

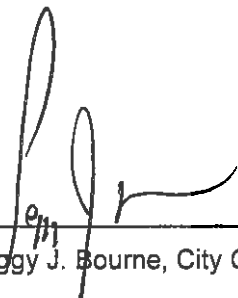


Jane Meyer



William Wiseman

ATTEST:



Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk

Supplementary Recommendation:

Pursue additional methods of communicating to the public on disaster emergency plans and ways for community members to be prepared for emergencies.

Rationale:

During the past several years, Americans have witnessed our homeland being attacked, devastating hurricanes destroying entire communities, horrific floods, tornados and fires. As a result, the federal government has taken steps to ensure our emergency responders are prepared for emergencies. The general public needs to prepare as well. We believe that our local emergency responders should do an extensive public relations campaign on disaster preparedness in order to improve disaster preparedness by families, businesses and individuals.

Supplementary Recommendation:

Support efforts by federal, state, local agencies and health care organizations in the prevention and management of any public health emergency.

Rationale:

In the past months, the world has seen yet another outbreak of the Avian influenza - commonly called "bird flu" which is an infection caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally in birds. Some domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys, can become infected, often fatally. Avian Bird Flue has been detected three times in the United States: in 1924, 1983 and in 2004. The 2004 outbreak was quickly confined to one flock and eradicated. The Study Commission understands the level of devastation a pandemic of any type would have in the world and in the Great Falls community and therefore strongly urges the City Commission to support all efforts by the federal, state, local agencies and health care organizations in the prevention of any public health emergency.

Supplementary Recommendation:

Actively pursue consolidating services with Cascade County and other local government agencies as well as pursue interlocal agreements including municipalities, counties, school districts, and any agency or department of the State of Montana. In addition to consolidating services, consider creating a joint advisory committee to research and recommend areas of collaboration between the city, county and school district.

Rationale:

A strategy of "functional consolidation" seeks to achieve local government economies through locally negotiated, cooperative agreements among the existing units of government. Functional consolidation permits the following:

- ✓Economies of scale in purchasing of supplies.
- ✓Cost reductions in areas such as vehicle and equipment maintenance.
- ✓Cost reductions due to more efficient use of employee time.

The Study Commission believes that a joint advisory committee charged with the responsibility of researching and recommending areas of collaboration would keep this effort going resulting in cost and time savings to taxpayers.

Supplementary Recommendation:

The Neighborhood Council members to take office the same day the Mayor and City Commissioners.

Rationale:

The Charter states that "within thirty (30) days after each election, each neighborhood council shall meet to organize as provided in the section." This statement has led to confusion and frustration as it has been interpreted to mean that Council members must be sworn-in and take office within 30 days. The end result has been two orientations and two swearing-in ceremonies are scheduled – one for the Neighborhood Council members and one for the City Commissioners—in order to comply with the different charter language. The Study Commission requested a legal opinion on the charter language and was told that Mcquillin's on "Municipal Corporations," 13.40, advises "a governing body is generally considered to be a continuous body, regardless of changes in its personnel;" and 12.110 states that "municipal officers hold over until their successors are installed."

Therefore, members of an existing Neighborhood Council may continue to act as members of such a council through November after an election, hold meetings inclusive of the November meeting required by Charter, and otherwise conduct business of the Council until the newly elected members are sworn in January.

The Study Commission believes that the simple act of having all elected officers sworn in on the same day will lead to the elimination of confusion and frustration when the two bodies take office at different times.