

Social & Economic Justice Commission-2015 Work Plan

Accomplishments of 2014

- Completed a Needs Assessment of basic social services available which included services provided by the City, faith based community, non profits and other organizations. Along with this was an assessment of needs that are not being met
- Research on a Rent Control program
- Explored facets of raising the minimum wage and actions taken by other cities in the Bay Area

Policy Review and Initiatives for 2015

- Analyze the “soda tax” to make a recommendation to the City Council
- Intention to further investigate needs for services in housing, senior services and mental health. Clarify Albany’s relationship and benefits with Berkeley/Albany Mental Health and determine the best way for Albany to meet the mental health needs of its residents.
- Promote Rent Review and Affordable Housing—This was the number one priority on the needs assessment. The SEJC is aware that other groups in Albany are working in this area. Our intention would be to get a status on action taken and to supplement/complement those actions with recommendations to the City Council.
- Minimum Wage—This area would involve a report to the City Council on research already done on this subject.
- Drop In Center—The Commission would research and recommend a model that would include potential sites, costs, staffing and services to be offered.
- Senior Services—Age in Place—The SEJC would investigate needs seniors have as a follow up to the Needs Assessment. We would review services available in the city and the dispersal of the information about such services.

Relation to the City Council Strategic Plan

The Commission’s 2015 priority projects will help to implement the City Council’s Strategic Plan Objectives of “Engage our Diverse Community”. The activities we purpose would provide support to the City Council in areas of need to the homeless, senior, mentally ill and those of lower economic status to allow them to continue to live and thrive in our City.