

Civic Engagement Indicator Will be Developed by the Council

Date: 9 - 15- 2000

Memo: (emailed) Report on Sept 11, 2000 Meeting of the Council

From: R. Chianese

To: Council Board Members

At Monday's meeting, September 11th, we agreed that the Council Board Members themselves would try to develop sustainability indicators that would measure the famous issue of " civic engagement."

We had a guide as to how they might be developed in John Schillenger's draft of tentative indicators in the area of Public Health. While it is impossible to present John's three column outline in an e-mail, I have been asked to request that each one of us try our hand at proposing civic engagement indicators. So what you see below are examples of how we might do it:

Civic engagement indicator

1. Topic : public engagement in issues of concern.

Indicators: the number of public parks, the number of public meeting places, the frequency of attendance at civic meetings, such as city councils, school boards, candidate meetings, etc.

Outcomes/Consequences/ Assumptions: the more we have of each one of the above, the more likely the community will have opportunities to engage itself in civic dialogue, the more informed it will be, and the more voter turn out will likely occur.

2. Topic: social diversity

Indicators: the number of ethnically and economically mixed neighborhoods, the number of ethnically based festivals, the ethnic balance of schools, the affordability of homes, the number of voters from one ethnic group voting for a candidate from another ethnic group, income equalities, decreasing incidence of hate crimes etc.

Outcomes /Consequences/Assumptions: social diversity being a value, and engagement with each other across ethnic boundaries a goal, one can assume that the higher number of each one of the above indicators, the more social diversity and engagement a community will have.