

## TALKING POINTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET

-Public health is a countywide human service issue.

The current budget proposal eliminates very important programs; doing so will harm public Health in the county. Funding for these programs should be reinstated: Animal services, dental funding and Well Child Clinics

-These are not luxuries but public safety issues.

-The city and county health departments were merged in a carefully planned effort to improve public health countywide. This cannot be done without adequate resources.

-The department is doing more countywide with fewer resources. Examples are lake testing and Animal Services.

-There are very positive things going on in the department. Public Health has gained national recognition and funding to study infant mortality. The well testing program in the county was very well received outside the city, and people are interested in continuing this program. High levels of contamination in wells in the county have been identified; there is a need to continue this testing and to remedy the situation.