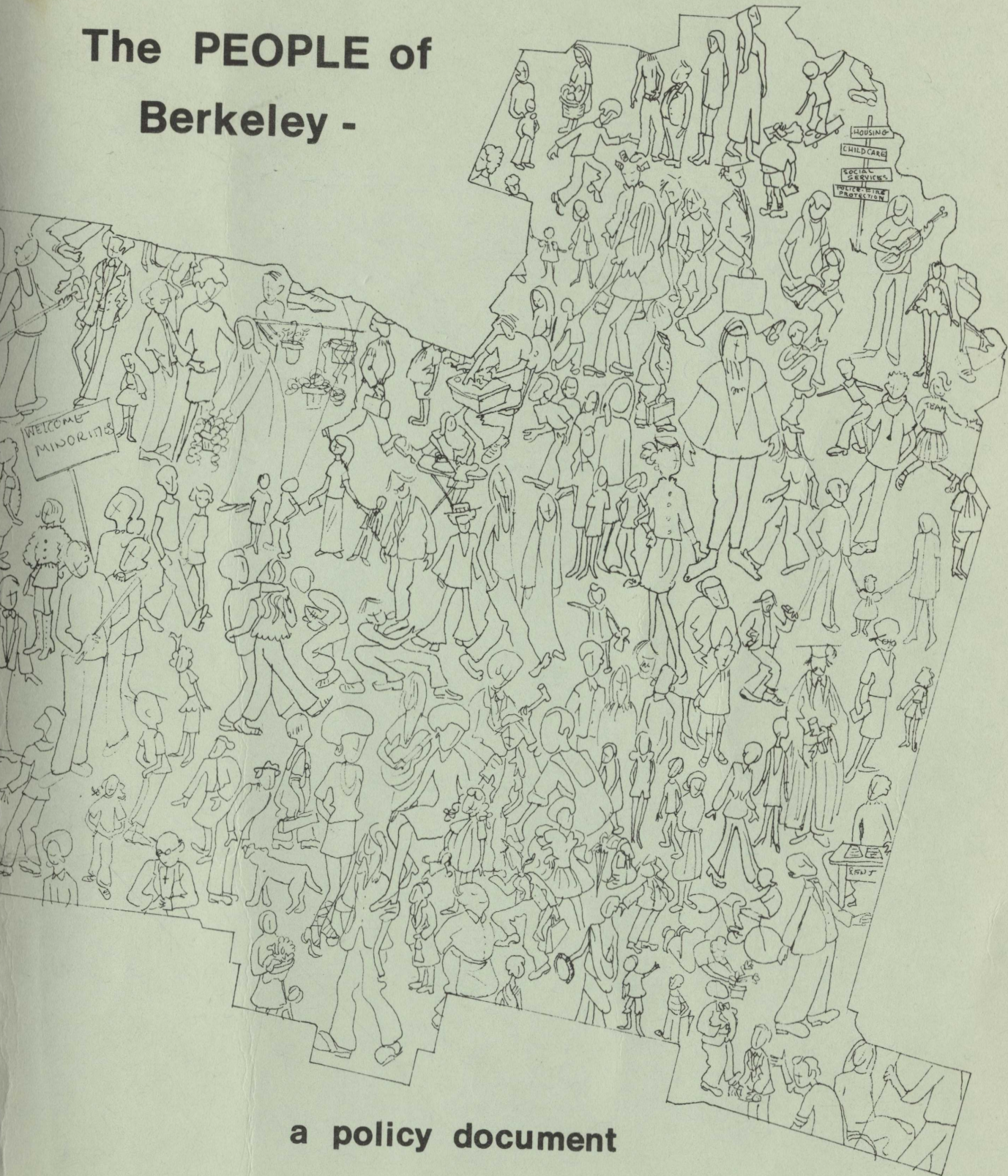


The PEOPLE of Berkeley -



a policy document

THE PEOPLE OF BERKELEY - A POLICY DOCUMENT

Introduction

Proposed Policies

HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

November 1973

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INTRODUCTION

1973

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This is an attempt to state how the City of Berkeley feels about the various segments of its population. By establishing policy with respect to its people, the way to implement the objectives inherent in these policies becomes clearer. To give further direction towards implementation, and in an attempt to avoid "motherhood" statements, specific mandates are included wherever possible.

In 1950, at about the time the development of the first Master Plan was begun, there were almost 114,000 people in Berkeley. Twenty years later there were still 114,000 people in Berkeley. This appears to be a static population, but hidden in these gross figures are some very substantial changes. The White population (including Spanish Heritage) in 1950 comprised about 85% of the total population, while the Black population accounted for an additional 12%. By 1970 the White population had decreased to almost 68% of the total, while the Black population had increased to 24%. In addition, a substantial Asian population was present in 1970 as well as a growing Spanish speaking group. (This latter group was not counted in 1950.) One feature of Berkeley's population, non-existent in 1950, was the existence of a large number of young adults, mostly White, in 1970. These persons were not University of California, Berkeley students although they share many attributes. (For a more detailed description see the two demographic studies issued by the Planning Department.)

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INTRODUCTION

This increase in diversity of population composition was matched in 1971 by a diversity of political ideologies, actions and beliefs. Many younger people were more aggressive and militant. A host of private single purpose institutions now proliferate -- Women's Refuge, Ecology Action, Communes to start the list. A majority of Black City Councilmen exists in 1973. An insistent Black community obtained special Federal funds for Model Cities. An aggressive Affirmative Action program is operative within and without City Hall. The Berkeley of 1970 is much more aware, quarrelsome, individualistic, ideologically divergent, and politically active, than the counterpart in 1950.

In 1950, at about the time the development of the first Market...

POLICY 12

BERKELEY RECOGNIZES ITS LARGE SENIOR CITIZEN GROUP'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY'S HETEROGENEOUS POPULATION AND ACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEETING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY. BERKELEY WOULD PREFER TO AVOID ADDITIONAL LARGE INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE AGED, AND INSTEAD DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR PROVIDING ADEQUATE NEEDED SERVICES WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE ELDERLY. WHERE AGE AND LOW INCOME ARE COMBINED, BERKELEY RECOGNIZES THE PRIORITY OF THIS GROUP FOR ANY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO BE DEVELOPED. WHERE POSSIBLE, REGULATIONS PERMITTING SMALL UNITS FOR THE ELDERLY SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN ALL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THIS GROUP WITH DIGNITY AND WITH OPPORTUNITY TO REMAIN EITHER IN A FAMILIAR HOME OR A FAMILIAR NEIGHBORHOOD WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING A LARGE FAMILY TYPE HOME. REGULATIONS ENCOURAGING SMALL SCALE RESIDENTIAL GROUPS OF ELDERLY IN EXISTING HOUSING SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.



POLICY 13

BECAUSE THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED HAVE LITTLE POLITICAL POWER, AND BECAUSE FEW PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEIR PROBLEMS, THEY ARE OFTEN NEGLECTED. BERKELEY URGES THAT BUILDING DESIGN BE MODIFIED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THIS GROUP AND DIRECTS THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY IN MEETING THEIR NEEDS IN THE VARIOUS PUBLIC FACILITIES.



The elderly are a substantial portion of the City's population -- another characteristic of a core city. The elderly's problems are compounded because of their reduced energy, mobility and resources: they cannot compete for jobs; they experience increasing isolation with age; they experience accentuated feelings of insecurity and of being uprooted when faced with the need to move; when concentrated into large complexes they experience many of the disadvantages of a homogeneous population; adjustment to new life styles in culturally changing neighborhoods is especially difficult; their fears for their safety mount. The elderly are often low income.

The majority of the elderly live scattered throughout the community -- often in family-type housing which they have occupied for many years. Many of these persons need a style of housing which is non-existent or in short supply -- non-institutional housing in familiar neighborhoods which is small in scale and has easy access to services.