

**A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL REGARDING THE CITY OF
HUNTINGTON'S EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE COSTS.**

WHEREAS, the City of Huntington (City) currently pays \$6.5 million to cover the medical expenses of City employees and retirees; and

WHEREAS, this is 18 percent of the City General Fund Budget (excluding grants and transfers); and

WHEREAS, employees pay premiums of \$12 a month for single coverage and \$25 a month for family coverage and these premiums are only a small fraction of what is typically paid for similar coverage in the private sector and are significantly below premiums paid under PEIA by state and public education employees; and

WHEREAS, both the Marshall University *Study of City Government* and meetings with representatives of BlueCross/BlueShield and PEIA indicated that significant savings were available while keeping employee health care benefits at a reasonable cost and customary level of benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall University study indicated the City could save \$1.1 million annually and Blue Cross/Blue Shield indicated savings could run as high as an additional \$1.2 million; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City has indicated that substantial changes are to be made in health care insurance; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in health care costs to the City could allow for increases in public safety officers, improved streets and upgrades in other City services without an increase in fees or taxes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON, CABELL AND WAYNE COUNTIES, that the City obtain responses to a

Request for Proposals from health insurance carriers to provide health care coverage which shall consist of a single annual premium which will not exceed \$5.5 million annually and which could be achieved by any combination of increased employee contributions, alterations in coverage and changes in co-pays and deductibles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council states its intent that the City budget for the year 2008-2009 for employee health care not exceed \$5.5 million and the budget presented to Council not include an amount any greater than \$5.5 million.

SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN CAL KENT

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY SEM

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL: _____

DATE: _____

BARBARA NELSON, CITY CLERK

DATE: _____

DAVID A. FELINTON, MAYOR

APPROVE

DATE: _____

VETO