

# Council majority backs Human Relations funding

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A majority of Greenville County Council wants to reinstate funds for the county's Human Relations Department that were cut from the proposed county budget during a budget work session last week.

Members of the Human Relations Commission said this weekend they planned to lobby council to continue to fund the department, which receives civil rights and community complaints and refers them to agencies that can solve them.

But a survey of council members showed that nine members favored putting the \$25,131 back in the budget. Council is in the midst of a two-month effort to formulate its

budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Council tentatively agreed at a budget meeting last week to eliminate the department, with many saying the number of complaints the agency handles does not justify its amount of funding. The money was to go to an extra appropriation for the Greenville Transit Authority.

But concern from black council members Ennis Fant and E.D. Dixon, whose constituencies are composed heavily of minorities, prompted council Democrats to reconsider.

Human Relations Commission Chairman Janie Reid said last week that her group has tentatively planned an emergency meeting today to find a way to convince council to keep the department.

Democratic council members Sally Crum-

ley, James Arrowood, Mann Batson, Paul Greer, Jim Bennett, Fant, Dixon and Republicans Bob Leach and George Bomar say they will vote to put the department back in the proposed budget at council's Thursday budget session. The Democrats and Bomar say they would reinstate the Human Relations department by reducing GTA's extra appropriation of \$50,000 by approximately 50 percent. Leach said he would prefer to make cuts in other areas.

Council Republican Dick Herdklotz said Sunday he will reserve his comments until the matter is brought up at the Thursday budget session. Republican Gale Crawford declined comment. Council Republican Paul Wickensimer is reportedly out of town and could not be reached for comment Sunday.