



Eugene City Council

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

February 8, 2017

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Harris Hall

125 East 8th Avenue

Eugene, Oregon 97401

**Meeting of February 8, 2017;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

Councilors

Alan Zelenka, President

George Poling

Emily Semple

Claire Syrett

Mike Clark, Vice President

Greg Evans

Chris Pryor

Betty Taylor

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue

A. WORK SESSION

Downtown and Neighborhood Public Safety

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010,
or visit us online at ***www.eugene-or.gov***.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Downtown and Neighborhood Public Safety

Meeting Date: February 8, 2017
Department: PDD, LRCS, EPD, CS
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item: A
Staff Contact: Denny Braud, Pete Kerns
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-8817

ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session was requested by the City Council to address downtown and neighborhood public safety. It will provide an opportunity for Council to discuss and provide direction on strategies that could be implemented or supported through City policies, public safety services, placemaking efforts, and community partnerships.

BACKGROUND

Eugene's downtown serves as a cultural, economic and civic center for the community. The city, public and private partners, and the community have all invested considerable time and resources into Eugene's downtown revitalization, which has resulted in significant improvements that have brought increased activity to downtown.

While this is certainly one of the desired effects of the community's collective efforts to invigorate downtown, there continue to be significant concerns about downtown safety and unwelcoming behaviors that persist in the area. At the January 23 City Council public forum 37 people provided testimony about their concerns related to downtown safety. A survey about downtown public spaces conducted by the Project for Public Spaces last fall revealed similar concerns which will be presented at next week's work session. In addition, the City Manager and executive staff have met with a number of stakeholders over the last month, hearing similar concerns about unlawful activities as well as behaviors that, while not illegal, make people feel unsafe and unwelcome.

Last November, City Council reviewed a number of strategies and tools that have been implemented in downtown over the last year to help deter illegal behavior, support positive activity, connect those in need with appropriate services, and create a healthy, welcoming environment as well as options that could be implemented in the future. At that work session, the council voted in favor of requesting that the City Manager provide the council with additional information regarding a dog restriction downtown and expanded smokefree areas. A supplement to this AIS with proposed ordinances addressing these health and safety concerns will be provided to the council under separate cover prior to the February 8 Work Session for consideration for a public hearing.

While many of the strategies that have been implemented have had positive results, it is clear that

downtown still struggles with unlawful activity and the perception that it is not safe. This work session will provide the City Council with the opportunity to hear about the nature of criminal activity and behaviors in downtown and surrounding areas and provide direction on strategies that would make downtown cleaner, healthier and safer.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

City Council Goals

Safe Community - A community where all people are safe, valued and welcome.

- Greater sense of safety (especially downtown)

Sustainable Development - A community that meets its present environmental, economic and social needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Increased downtown development

Accessible and Thriving Culture and Recreation - A community where arts and outdoors are integral to our social and economic well-being and are available to all.

Envision Eugene Pillars

- Provide ample economic opportunities for all community members.
- Promote compact urban development and efficient transportation options.
- Protect, repair and enhance neighborhood livability.

Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan

Strategy 5: Identify as a Place to Thrive, Priority Next Step - Urban Vitality

As we foster a creative economy, dynamic urban centers are an important asset. Eugene, Springfield and many of the smaller communities in the region, recognize the importance of supporting and enhancing vitality in their city centers. Building downtowns as places to live, work and play will support the retention and expansion of the existing business community and be a significant asset to attract new investment. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield will continue to enhance their efforts to promote downtown vitality through development and redevelopment.

Eugene Downtown Plan

- Support public safety activities that increase visibility, access actual and perceived safety for individuals and property downtown.
- Actively pursue public/private development opportunities to achieve the vision for an active, vital, growing downtown.
- Reinforce the creative, distinctive culture of downtown as the arts and entertainment center of the city.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

City Council will have the opportunity to provide guidance on potential strategies at the work session, including the opportunity to direct the City Manager to schedule public hearings on ordinances on dog restrictions and expansion of smokefree areas.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the proposed ordinances (provided under separate cover) related to dog restrictions and expansion of smokefree areas.

ATTACHMENTS

None – Proposed ordinance will be sent under separate cover

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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