

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Prohibited Acts in Downtown Activity Zone

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Meeting Date: June 9, 2014  
Department: Police  
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Agenda Item Number: B  
Staff Contact: Lt. Eric Klinko  
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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

Over the last several years, the community's investment in downtown Eugene has begun to transform the area. More and more people are coming downtown to visit, shop, work, play, and live. In order to continue this momentum, support positive activity and create a welcoming space, two changes are proposed to the Downtown Activity Zone. The changes are aimed at providing consistency in the hours of operation of public open space in the downtown and increasing safety for animals and people in a high pedestrian use area by ensuring dogs in the area are licensed and therefore vaccinated.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Based on council direction and support, staff continues efforts to grow and sustain downtown economic development, enhance public safety and a sense of safety downtown and support a welcoming and vibrant downtown experience. While considerable progress has been made, as evidenced by increasing numbers of businesses, downtown visitors, and events in the city center, some challenges remain. In addition, as more people come downtown, it becomes ever more important to provide consistency around the use of public spaces and ensure animals and people are safe.

In order to address these concerns, two changes are proposed to the Downtown Activity Zone:

1. Providing operating hours for Broadway Plaza from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and
2. Requiring that all dogs be licensed in the downtown core.

The proposed ordinance was brought to a public hearing to solicit public comments on May 27. Comments received at that hearing from the public and council were considered in developing the summary and alternatives below.

#### **Broadway Plaza Hours**

Currently, Broadway Plaza is unlike other downtown public open space because it does not close at 11 p.m. Providing operating hours for Broadway Plaza from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. will make it consistent with the Park Blocks and other parks and open spaces throughout Eugene. Many communities close downtown plazas during the late night hours. For example, Pioneer Courthouse Square in the heart of downtown Portland is closed between midnight and 5 a.m. The late night

closure of Broadway Plaza will help support food cart vendors that are issued permits by the City to operate in the plaza and must leave their carts there overnight. Lastly, closing the plaza will reduce illegal activity that often occurs late at night in the area.

Possible Alternatives

1. Close Broadway Plaza from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. or during a different nighttime period.
2. Designate Broadway Plaza as a park. If this is done, Broadway Plaza would operate similar to the Park Blocks and other parks throughout Eugene.

**Licensed Dogs**

Downtown is one of Eugene’s premier pedestrian areas and, at times, can be congested. With more people downtown to visit, shop, work, play and live, there are an increasing number of conflicts between dogs and people, as well as between dogs. In order to make it a safe and welcoming space for everyone, the proposed code revision will reinforce that licensed dogs are welcome in downtown. Besides helping lost pets get returned to their owners more quickly, dog licensing helps ensure dogs are up to date on vaccinations and are safe to be around people and other animals.

Possible Alternatives

1. Require that all dogs be licensed in the downtown activity zone. (Licensed dogs are required to have valid rabies vaccinations.)
2. Prohibit all dogs within a certain geographic area downtown, such as the downtown core boundary.

**RELATED CITY POLICIES**

*City Council Goals*

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

- Greater sense of safety (especially downtown)

**COUNCIL OPTIONS**

- Council may direct staff to pursue one or more of the options enumerated or develop additional options.
- Council may take no further action.

**CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION**

No recommendation is offered, pending discussion by the City Council.

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

If an option is preferred, the council can move to direct staff to draft an ordinance to address the option.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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