

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Update on Permitted Overnight Sleeping Program

Meeting Date: June 10, 2015
Department: City Manager's Office
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
Contact: Michael Kinnison
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The current rest stop ordinance expires on October 1, 2015. This work session is to provide the council with an update on the rest stop program prior to consideration of an extension to the ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The rest stop program was initiated by the council in September 2013 by Ordinance 20517 with a one-year sunset date. The ordinance has been extended twice and is scheduled to sunset on October 1, 2015. The program currently supports five rest stops, three of which are managed by Community Supported Shelters (CSS) and two by Nightingale Health Sanctuary (NHS), and allows up to 15 individuals to stay at a stop. An expansion of up to 20 persons may be provided at the City Manager's discretion for an operator with a proven track record of successfully managing a rest stop for at least six months.

CSS manages one stop at Roosevelt and Garfield and two located adjacent to each other at Northwest Expressway and Chambers. The Roosevelt and Garfield stop was the first to open in December 2013. One stop at NW Expressway and Chambers is designated for veterans. There are currently a total of 40 individuals staying at the three stops managed by CSS.

Nightingale Health Sanctuary manages two adjacent stops on land leased from the county on the Lane County Behavioral Health Campus at 2411 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. These stops were established in December and intended to provide a temporary winter sheltering option. The lease was recently extended to August 21, 2015 to provide more time to find other housing options for the current residents. The site will be closed and restored to its original condition prior to the first University of Oregon (UO) football game on September 5 because Lane County has a contract for use of that site for event parking. The two stops currently house 28 people.

The program has been effective at providing a low-cost, safe, emergency sheltering option. Managing non-profits have been responsible for the costs of setting up and operating the stops. Preliminary results of a UO-sponsored program evaluation by students indicates that neighboring businesses and residents support the program and report little to no negative impacts from being located near a stop. The evaluation also indicates that stops provide the safety and stability that is critical for homeless people to begin connecting with resources and support services they need to

begin providing for themselves. Managers are reporting individuals accessing employment, health services and more permanent housing once stabilized at a stop. Full results of the evaluation will be distributed once complete.

CSS has expressed an interest in transitioning the veterans' camp at NW Expressway and Chambers to the Eugene Mission property. The stop has been sheltering veterans that can benefit from the services and amenities available at the Mission. Currently CSS does not have the capacity to manage four full rest stops but if the new site is approved, CSS will continue to evaluate capacity with the hope of operating four full rest stops eventually.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Eugene Code 4.816 Permitted Overnight Sleeping.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council can approve or deny establishing another rest stop at the Eugene Mission.

The council will consider options for a rest stop extension on June 22 after a public hearing on that date. No action is required at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager also recommends approval of an additional rest stop for veterans at the Eugene Mission.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to approve a rest stop at the Eugene Mission located at 1542 West 1st Avenue in Eugene.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Permitted Overnight Sleeping Ordinance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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