

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Call for Public Hearing on Ordinance Change Related to Publication of Snow Map

Meeting Date: July 22, 2013
Department: Public Works
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2E
Staff Contact: Eric Jones
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5523

ISSUE STATEMENT

Eugene Code currently requires the annual newspaper publication of a snow emergency route map. Staff is proposing to eliminate this newspaper publication which, coupled with best management practices of the Public Works Department, would provide for more timely and effective notification to the public in the event of an ice or snow emergency.

BACKGROUND

Eugene Code 5.684 requires that the City annually publish in October a map indicating priority 1, priority 2 and priority 3 emergency snow routes, a list of conditions under which a snow emergency will automatically exist, a list of broadcast stations, a statement that parking is not permitted along priority routes, and a notice of the City's ability to tow cars parked on priority routes. To meet these requirements and to provide information that is legible and distinguishes the various priority routes, the City purchases nearly a full-page color ad in the Register-Guard each October at a cost of more than \$4,000.

EC 6.684 deals exclusively with the annual publishing of the City's emergency route maps. Other code provisions prohibit parking on emergency snow routes (EC 5.677-5.678) and the City's notification requirements when declaring a snow emergency (EC 5.681).

Staff has and will continue to use best management practices to provide timely and effective notification of snow and ice emergencies. These practices include web publishing (e.g., www.eugene-or.gov/icesnow), news releases and other media contacts, and informal notifications to partner agencies, neighborhood associations and other groups as the winter weather season approaches. Additional advantages to web-based information include the ability to provide "zoomable" pdf maps (so a viewer can zoom in on an area of particular interest) and the ability to update information quickly and cost effectively as situations develop or media stations change.

For these reasons, staff is requesting that EC 5.684 be deleted.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Council goals for effective, accountable municipal government and fair, stable and adequate financial resources.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

- The council may choose to hold a public hearing on the deletion of EC 5.684. Subsequent to the hearing, the council may take action to delete or amend the code requirements.
- The council may choose to not conduct a hearing, in which case the requirements of EC 5.684 will remain in force.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that the council hold a public hearing on an ordinance deleting EC 5.684.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to schedule a public hearing on an ordinance deleting EC 5.684, requiring the annual publication of snow emergency route maps.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Eugene Code 5.684, Snow Emergency - Publication of Snow Emergency Route Maps

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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