

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Overnight Sleeping ("Rest Stop") Pilot Program

Meeting Date: July 14, 2014
Department: Planning & Development
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Agenda Item: B
Staff Contact: Michael Wisth
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5540

ISSUE STATEMENT

The ordinance permitting the overnight sleeping "rest stop" pilot program sunsets on October 1, 2014. At this work session, Staff will present an overview of the rest stop program and a recommendation to extend for an additional year to October 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND

On September 25, 2013, Ordinance No. 20517 was adopted concerning permitted overnight sleeping. Section 3 of that ordinance adopted a rest stop pilot program with a sunset date of March 14, 2014. The opening of the first pilot site occurred on December 1, 2013. In order to have sufficient time to evaluate the pilot program, and then take action to extend, amend, or make permanent the pilot, council adopted an ordinance on February 24, 2014 which extended the sunset date to October 1, 2014.

The rest stops, managed by Community Supported Shelters, are located at the intersection of Garfield & Roosevelt and Chambers & Northwest Expressway. They shelter 15 adult occupants each in both conestoga huts and tents. Tents are elevated from the ground to increase comfort and limit impact to the site.

Each site has a designated resident host in charge of dealing with minor incidents, enforcing site rules and overseeing the operations of the rest stop. All residents have work expectations. In the event a resident is unable to find employment, Community Supported Shelters works in partnership with NextStep Recycling to provide volunteer work opportunities, which assists the resident in building skills to re-enter the workforce. Additional volunteer opportunities have been made available with the City's Parks & Open space volunteer program. For example, residents have worked to clear invasive weeds from Skinner's Butte Park.

Through the City's signed agreement with Community Supported Shelters, the rest stops have required minimal City resources following their establishment. Although the City does not manage the rest stops, the City has received positive feedback related to the operation of the rest stops from surrounding neighborhood groups and residents. Due to the early success of the program and community acceptance, Council is being asked to consider a one-year extension of the rest stop pilot program.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

- Eugene Code 4.815 Prohibited Camping, and Eugene Code 4.816 Permitted Camping.
- Council goal for a safe community: A community where all people are safe, valued and welcome, including desired outcomes for decreased property crime, a greater sense of safety, visible and accessible police presence, and better police/community relations.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on an ordinance extending the sunset date for the rest stop pilot program.
2. Take no action and direct the City Manager to return with additional information.
3. Take no action and allow the program to sunset on October 1, 2014.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends scheduling a public hearing on an ordinance extending the rest stop pilot program sunset date to October 1, 2015.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on an ordinance extending the rest stop pilot program sunset date to October 1, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Images of Rest Stops
- B. Draft Ordinance for the extension of the sunset date of the permitted overnight sleeping program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Michael Wisth
Telephone: 541-682-5540
Staff E-Mail: michael.c.wisth@ci.eugene.or.us