

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: An Ordinance Extending the Sunset Date of the Permitted Overnight Sleeping ("Rest Stop") Pilot Program

Meeting Date: July 28, 2014
Department: Planning & Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item: 4
Staff Contact: Michael Wisth
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5540

ISSUE STATEMENT

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

BACKGROUND

On September 25, 2013, the council adopted Ordinance No. 20517 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, the 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 and Roosevelt, and Chambers and Northwest Expressway. They shelter 15 adult occupants each in both Conestoga huts and tents. The 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 to work or volunteer while staying on the site. Volunteer opportunities have been made available through the City's Parks and Open space volunteer program. For example, residents work to clear invasive weeds from Skinner's Butte Park, a difficult job that previously had few volunteers.

The rest stops have required minimal City resources following their establishment. Although the City does not manage the rest stops, the City has collected data related to the early outcomes of this pilot project and a report is included in Attachment A.

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 support, the 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

The council may choose to extend the sunset date of Ordinance No. 20517, or allow the amendment to sunset on October 1, 2015.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends extending the sunset date of Ordinance No. 20517 to October 1, 2015.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move to adopt Council Bill 5126, extending the sunset date of Ordinance No. 20517 to October 1, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Data Report on Rest Stops
- B. Ordinance for the Extension of the Sunset Date of the Permitted Overnight Sleeping Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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