

City Council Announcements

December 5, 2006

A. Information Needed by Council Staff

1. Anonymous Complaints - The City Council received the attached communication from the Community Development Director regarding an increasing pattern of property owners submitting complaints against multiple neighboring properties in retaliation for an initial complaint against their properties. The Planning & Zoning Enforcement Division is proposing to eliminate investigations of anonymous complaints in an effort to help direct the City's limited enforcement resources to those cases that most negatively impact neighborhoods. The proposed change would require that a complainant give his/her name and provide contact information, such as a phone number or address. The communication states that "contact information would only be used for follow-up and court action (should that need arise) and would not be made public under any other circumstance." Council staff confirmed with the City Attorney that contact information can be "protected" under the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA). The Council may wish to discuss this proposed policy and inquire whether anonymous complaints through the Mayor or Council would also be disregarded.

2. District Outreach Meetings:

Did the Council feel that the District Outreach Meetings worked out well this year?

Does the Council wish to consider scheduling similar meetings in the future?

If so, do you want to schedule them each year, or every other year?

One of the Council Members pointed out that since next year is an election year if these meetings were held the Council may want to consider adjusting the schedule so that the late summer and fall outreach meetings are not held in districts where an election is taking place, or where the incumbent is running for another public office, or the Council may want to consider just holding the outreach meetings in non-election years.

Given the above ideas, here are two options, as well as a sample schedule of the next few years if the Council selects option (b) below.

- a. No District Outreach meetings; Council free to continue community meetings in keeping with Council policy*; or,
- b. District Outreach meetings scheduled to avoid late summer and fall in districts where an election will be held, yet still considering the previous year's schedule. (District 6 meeting was held in October and District 4 meeting was held in November, and so it may be too soon to schedule those districts in January or February). Council free to continue community meetings in keeping with Council policy*.

* Note: When the Council increased its emphasis on policy and budget issues it was determined that resources would not allow for District or neighborhood meetings to be held during the budget process (months of May and June).

2007 Sample Schedule (Elections will be held in Districts 2, 4 and 6):

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. January | District Two |
| 2. February | District One |
| 3. March | District Three |

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 4. April | District Six |
| 5. May | District Four |
| 6. August | District Seven |
| 7. September or October | District Five |

2008 Sample Schedule:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. January | District One |
| 2. February | District Two |
| 3. March | District Three |
| 4. April | District Four |
| 5. May | District Five |
| 6. August | District Six |
| 7. September or October | District Seven |

2009 Sample Schedule: (Elections will be held in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. January | District One |
| 2. February | District Three |
| 3. March | District Five |
| 4. April | District Seven |
| 5. May | District Two |
| 6. August | District Four |
| 7. September or October | District Six |

B. For Your Information

1. Attached is a Grant application submitted by the City.

Grant Submission Update Memo

TO: Sam Guevera, Steve Fawcett, Cindy Gust-Jenson

FROM: Grant Acquisition Team

DATE: 12/1/2006

SUBJECT: ADTEC DUI Enforcement Grant

FUNDING AGENCY: Utah Highway Patrol ADTEC

REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$21,000

DEPARTMENT APPLYING: Police Department

COLLABORATING AGENCIES: Utah Highway Patrol, Salt Lake City Mobile Neighborhood Watch, SLC Community Councils

DATE SUBMITTED: May 31, 2006

SPECIFICS:

Training ☐ Supplies ☐ Equipment ☐

Personnel: ☐

Existing ☐ New ☐ Overtime Only ☐ Requires Funding After Grant ☐

Match Required ☐ In Kind ☐ Cash ☐

Computer Software Development ☐ In House ☐ Contract Services: ☐

New Program (City not performing function now) ☐

GRANT DETAILS:

Salt Lake City has received funding from ADTEC for Portable Breath Testers and In-Car video cameras five of the past eight years. SLCPD has been a leader in the State of Utah in DUI enforcement and arrests. As a result, we have been awarded funding for enforcement and investigation on a regular basis. This proposal, to the State of Utah, requests funding for 18 digital video cameras to be mounted in patrol vehicles, and 30 portable breath testers. This equipment allows officers to conduct field sobriety tests with more accuracy, and to record the interface with DUI suspects. SLCPD conducted 10 DUI saturations, resulting in 81 arrests during the past year. Additionally, SLCPD made more than 800 arrests for DUI during regular patrol and enforcement shifts.

NOV 15 2006

Communication to the City Council



Department of Community Development
Office of the Director

To: Rocky Fluhart, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Louis Zunguze, Community Development Director

Date: November 14, 2006

CC: Cheri Coffey, Deputy Planning Director
Doug Wheelwright, Deputy Planning Director
Craig Spangenberg, Housing and Zoning Administrator
Chris Shoop, CD Research & Project Analyst

Re: Anonymous/Retaliatory Complaints

This communication is in response to questions from the City Council regarding anonymous and/or retaliatory housing/zoning enforcement complaints. As noted during the last budget briefing, we have seen an increasing pattern of property owners submitting complaints against multiple neighboring properties in retaliation for an initial complaint against their properties. The Planning & Zoning Enforcement Division is proposing to eliminate anonymous complaints in an effort to help direct enforcement resources to those legitimate cases that most negatively impact neighborhoods.

For more than 20 years, anonymous complaints have been accepted without any requirement that the complainant divulge his/her name, address, or phone number. The net result has been an ever-increasing number of complaints, many of which could be considered frivolous. This policy also enables an individual to lodge a very large number of complaints in retaliation for a complaint on his/her property, which hampers the efforts of limited enforcement staff to best address the most critical of violations.

The Planning & Zoning Enforcement Division is recommending a change in the policy regarding housing/zoning enforcement complaints. The proposed change would require that a complainant give his/her name and provide contact information, such as a phone number or address. Without this contact information, a housing/zoning case will not be initiated and no investigation would take place. This contact information would only be used for follow-up and court action (should that need arise) and would not be made public under any other circumstance.

Adoption of the proposed policy will discourage the reporting of frivolous and/or retaliatory complains. Zoning Enforcement resources would then be better utilized as staff focus on legitimate violations that genuinely affect citizens' quality of life in Salt Lake City, resulting in an overall increase in customer satisfaction.