

City of Brookings **WORKSHOP Agenda**

CITY COUNCIL

Monday December 7, 2015, 4:00pm

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Topics

1. Transient Issues. [Public Safety Director, pg. 2]

D. Council Member Requests for Workshop Topics

E. Adjournment

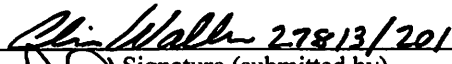
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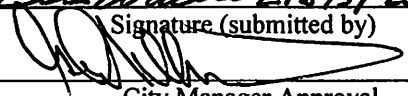
CITY OF BROOKINGS

COUNCIL WORKSHOP REPORT

Meeting Date: December 7, 2015

Originating Dept: Public Safety

 27813/201

Signature (submitted by)


City Manager Approval

Subject: Transient Issues

Background/Discussion:

For the past several years our community has seen a significant increase in calls for service relating to transients in Brookings proper. During this time Officers have become very familiar with what community outreach programs/services have worked, what ones have not and what could be improved to curb many of these calls for service.

Many of these calls are received from residents who experience negative impacts of transients coming into residential neighborhoods seeking to secure services from the various church-sponsored community kitchens. Issues such as loitering, camping, littering, human waste, verbal/physical conflicts between transients, public intoxication and concern for the safety of resident children are among the types of calls being received by the Police Department. We continue to feel if community kitchen churches would consolidate to a single location not located in a residential area many of the issues, complaints and crimes committed could be reduced. This could potentially be established by the City Council adopting standards for Community Kitchens into the City's land development code, or through a cooperative effort between the churches and the City to identify an appropriate location.

City staff is also in the process and prepared to come to the Council with a recommendation to adopt an ordinance similar to the one Curry County adopted prohibiting an exchange of money between motorist and solicitor.

We have attempted to speak with many of our local transients in an effort to gain a better insight into services they see as beneficial, services not needed and what more we as a community can do to reduce the number of calls for service involving transient related complaints. Information gained from these interviews will be summarized at the Workshop.

Another potential option that has been reviewed and not pursued in the past is to have all beaches located adjacent to the City Limits prohibited to camping. The Mill Beach area in particular has become a popular domicile for transients. The beach camping restriction request would have to go through the State of Oregon and have Brookings added to an existing OAR which prohibits camping on Oregon State Beaches adjacent to designated cities.

Staff has reviewed a number of other approaches being pursued in other communities to address the transient issue. Many communities are struggling to find a balance between compassionate care of those in need and maintaining a quality of life standard for local residents. Our research has revealed that community efforts to provide transient housing have not been successful and

that other actions, such as requiring that dogs in the possession of transients be licensed and vaccinated, only serve to treat the issue around the edges.

The City of Brookings should continue to be proactive, professional and offer available services at our disposal to our transient population; we should also continue to look for other options/locations to offer transient based resources that are not directly near schools, parks and residential neighborhoods.