

Memorandum

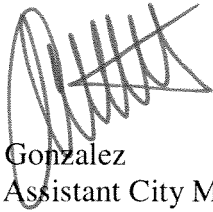


DATE: June 7, 2013

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Camping Regulation**

Attached is briefing material on the "Camping Regulation" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, June 10, 2013.



A.C. Gonzalez
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Rosa Rios, City Secretary
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Judge Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Office
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager



Camping Regulation

Public Safety Committee

June 10, 2013



Purpose

- Explain the need for a proactive effort to address potential issues arising from public gatherings and events on designated public property owned/controlled by the city

Goals

- Enhance public safety associated with camping on public property with improved law enforcement tools

History

- Currently, there is limited regulation of camping on city owned/controlled property
 - Section 32-1 of City Code prohibits overnight camping on park property without a special permit
- Has led to confusion in the case of spontaneous encampments

Lessons Learned

- Lessons learned from past events:
 - Enforcement tools to manage camping are limited
 - Health hazards (unsanitary conditions) are created
 - Fire hazards (fuel based lanterns and heating in tents) are created
 - City Staff response is frequently required (Sanitation, Police, Fire, Health Inspector, Code, Parks, CAO)
 - An atmosphere for increased crime can be created
 - Damage to public property can occur
 - Interference with use and enjoyment of property by the public is diminished

Highlights of Proposed Ordinance

- Camping Ordinance

- Restricts the erection and maintenance of temporary shelters on “designated public property”
 - City Hall and City Hall plaza
 - Park property
 - City owned/controlled vacant and unimproved lots
 - Convention Center
 - Central library
- Defines “temporary shelter” as a tent or other portable or impermanent structure in or under which a person can be sheltered from the elements

Highlights - Continued

- Provides a defense where express city authorization/permit is obtained
- Requires oral/written warning before enforcement
 - Person will be given one hour to remove the temporary shelter and any other personal property
 - City will remove and handle remaining property using existing police department and city policies

Next Steps

- Public Safety Committee recommendation
- Council consideration of ordinance change
 - June 12, 2013
- Enforcement as required

QUESTIONS?