

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Agenda

May 7, 2014

3:00 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, Chair
Commissioner Lauren Poe, Member
Commissioner Todd Chase, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER**ROLL CALL****ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****APPROVAL OF MINUTES**[130942.](#)**Approval of February 26, 2014 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (B)****RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted.

[130942_PSCFeb2014Minutes_20140507](#)**DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS**[130769.](#)**Synthetic Drug Ordinance Proposal (B)**

This item requests the Public Safety Committee consider the creation of a City ordinance to prohibit the possession, sale, display for sale, or manufacture of synthetic drugs in Gainesville; to assist in combatting the rise in the sale and use of dangerous synthetic substances commonly known as “spice”.

Explanation: Synthetic drugs are commonly marketed for sale to young adults and teenagers as a safe legal alternative to marijuana or other controlled substances and the City of Gainesville, along with other cities nationwide, has seen a significant increase in the availability and use of synthetic drugs and substances by young adults and teenagers.

Synthetic cannabinoids, bath salts, and other dangerous chemicals commonly referred to generically as synthetic drugs, and “spice”, are being added by producers and manufacturers to products in an effort to mimic the effects of illegal drugs when ingested into the human body.

Due to the manner in which these substances are marketed, the manufacture or production of synthetic drugs is not regulated by the Federal Drug Administration. Due to the absence of FDA testing and regulation, the long term health effects of synthetic drug products are unknown, have not undergone human clinical testing, and their manufacturing and production process has no regulatory oversight.

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, exposure to, or ingestion of synthetic drugs resulted in 2,906 emergency medical calls in 2010; 6,969 calls in 2011; and 1,901 calls in the first three months of 2012 to poison control centers across the US.

Fiscal Note: None.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee 1) hear a presentation from GPD staff; and 2) consider whether an ordinance prohibiting the sale, distribution, production, manufacture, or display for sale or marketing of synthetic drugs within the city limits of Gainesville would benefit law enforcement in combatting the increased use and availability of these drugs.

Legislative History

4/3/14 City Commission Approved as Recommended

[130769 HillsboroughCo SyntheticDrugOrd 20140403](#)

[130520.](#)

Child and Youth Programs Crime Prevention (B)

This item requests that City staff research funding sources to continue and enhance crime prevention programs for children and youth.

Explanation: During an update of Strategic Initiative 3.3, "Analyze The Availability And Accessibility Of Child And Youth Programs And Identify A Role For City Government", at the 11/7/13 City Commission meeting, staff was requested to research avenues to fundraise to support the continuation of the Summer Heatwave Basketball Program and other youth programs.

As a result, the City of Gainesville launched it's first-ever crowdfunding campaign in March to raise \$20,720, which will expand the popular Summer Heatwave program. Summer Heatwave provides a place for Gainesville youth to go during evening summer hours with activities ranging from basketball, a life skills class and open lounges to socialize and play games. Skills taught in Summer Heatwave set up players for potential college success.

For the past four years, during the times that the Heatwave basketball program operated, the occurrence of juvenile crimes was lower than other times throughout the year. GPD feels Heatwave was responsible for at least some of the drop/decrease in juvenile offenses during the hours of 6 and 10 p.m., late June through late August each summer.

Community residents can make a tax-deductible donation to the project online at <<http://www.citizeninvestor.com/project/summer-heatwave>> (credit cards will not be charged unless the project reaches 100 percent of its funding goal before the deadline). The project has already raised

\$13,580 with 53 donors, with 34 days to go, as of April 28, 2014.

Fiscal Note: None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee hear an update from GPD and Parks and Recreation and Cultural Affairs staff on the continuing efforts to expand youth crime prevention programs.

Legislative History

11/7/13 City Commission Referred to the Public Safety Committee

[130520a SummerHeatwaveCitizenvestorFlier 20150507](#)

[130520b SummerHeatwaveFlier 20140507](#)

110382.

Outdoor Concerts (NB)

Explanation: The City's downtown area also serves as an entertainment district which leads to higher levels of noise than might be present in other parts of the City. Over the last few years, the City has seen increasing interest in holding outdoor events including concerts that generate excitement and activity in the downtown area contributing customers to downtown businesses.

GPD and City staff met with entertainment district businesses and residents on several occasions to review the City's noise ordinance and explore changes to address the issue of noise generated by outdoor concerts, especially bass levels. The location of outdoor concerts is also being considered. This consideration is directly impacted by the fact that outdoor concerts will create noise that has the potential to impact the quality of life for surrounding businesses and residences.

Similar to many cities, the challenge appears to be to find an appropriate balance between the needs and desire for a lively and dynamic downtown area that is a draw to residents and visitors with the needs and interests of downtown and nearby residents and businesses who feel that they are being or will be negatively impacted by noise generated by outdoor concerts in the downtown area.

Staff also recently held a Downtown Listening Tour during peak Saturday night downtown business hours and invited the affected businesses and residents along with UF Noise Consultant Jared Anderson, who has been assisting the City with this research.

The City's noise ordinance helps to control or manage some of the issues but the ordinance does not cover the underlying issue generating the most complaints, which is the bass level. Staff has identified the following options the Committee may want to consider:

- *recommend that the City Commission modify the noise ordinance consistent with the consultant's recommendations;*

- continue to work with all interested parties, explore best practices from other jurisdictions and consider the option of providing higher noise thresholds in the City's entertainment districts than the rest of the City; or
- make no changes to the current ordinance.

Fiscal Note: None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee: 1) hear a report from City staff and UF Noise Consultant Jared Anderson; and 2) consider the options identified by staff and 3) provide direction as appropriate.

Legislative History

10/6/11	City Commission	Referred to the Public Safety Committee
11/29/11	Public Safety Committee	Discussed
2/29/12	Public Safety Committee	Discussed
2/28/13	Public Safety Committee	Discussed
12/12/13	Public Safety Committee	Discussed

[110382a PermitAppl 20111129.pdf](#)

[110382b SpecEventPolicy 20111129.pdf](#)

[110382c NoiseOrd 20111129.pdf](#)

[110382_OtherCitiesInfo_20120229.pdf](#)

[110382_CharlottesvilleNewsArticle_20130228](#)

[110382_NoiseOrdConsultantReport_20131212](#)

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

There are no additional meeting dates scheduled at this time.

ADJOURNMENT