

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Agenda

July 28, 2014

3:00 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Helen Warren, Chair
Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, 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**[140148.](#)

Approval of May 7, 2014 Public Safety Committee Minutes (B)

RECOMMENDATION*The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted.*[140148_PSC May2014MeetingMinutes_20140728](#)**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 combating 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.

At the May 7, 2014 PSC meeting Attorney Shannon MacGillis from the HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Office in Jacksonville explained to the Public Safety Committee types of synthetic drugs. The contents of the package is uncertain and continually changing so the HIDTA encourages Florida cities to regulate the packaging as a first step to regulate the sale of these drugs through State Statute 499.033. The new regulations would be geared for the sellers, not the users.

HIDTA made adjustments to a proposed ordinance that was distributed to the Committee on May 7 and sent it to the City. The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the proposed ordinance and has drafted an ordinance for consideration to include a phrase regarding possession and use of the drugs.

Fiscal Note: None.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee 1) review the draft ordinance regulating Synthetic Drugs; and 2) and direct the Clerk of the Commission to advertise an ordinance regulating the sale of these drugs.

Legislative History

4/3/14	City Commission	Approved as Recommended
5/7/14	Public Safety Committee	Discussed

[130769 HillsboroughCo SyntheticDrugOrd 20140403](#)

[130769a SYNTHETIC ORDINANCE DRAFT 20140728](#)

[130769b AlternativeSpiceOrdinanceOption 20140728](#)

[130932.](#)

Bicycle Registration Program (B)

This item gives a history of the bicycle registration in the City and offers options to be considered if the City moves toward reinstating this program.

Explanation: At a recent City Commission meeting Commissioner Hinson-Rawls requested that the City and County jointly speak about a Bicycle Registration Program. In preparation for this discussion, staff was requested to present a history of bicycle registration programs in the City, discuss the statutory enabling legislation for a program of this nature, discuss alternatives of how a program may be useful and provide any history or comparisons to other local governments in Florida for fees charged for such a program and how those fees may be used.
Information Points:

History

-In 1983, there was a mandatory bicycle registration which made anyone utilizing the roadways with a bicycle to get a license.

- The fee was \$5.00 to register the bicycle and \$1.00 to replace a stolen/damaged decal.
- The program was developed to assist Law Enforcement in the recovery of stolen bicycles.
- If a bicycle was located without a legal registration, the bicycle could be impounded for a fee of \$1.00.
- Civil Citations were charged for any portion of this ordinance with varying fees.
- Registrations were taken at several firehouses, parks and recreation areas, and the Police Department.

Other Agencies

- Other Florida Agencies that have bicycle registration programs are Ft. Lauderdale, St. Petersburg, and Daytona Beach. Their programs have mandatory registration guided by ordinance with no cost or \$1.00 to register a bicycle.
- All programs are geared towards helping reduce bicycle theft and the recovery of stolen bicycles.
- No impoundment fees are charged for individuals whose bicycles have been impounded.
- These programs are not geared towards increasing funds, they are focused on theft prevention. All the agencies were not promoting this program for bicycle safety or to reduce crashes. There is no crash analysis data to determine if a bicycle registration/license program existed would it impact traffic crashes involving bicycles and bicycle safety. These programs were designed as Law Enforcement tool to recover stolen bicycles, not for road maintenance or bicycle safety.
- Police Departments are responsible for the registration of the bicycles.

Currently

- Both GPD and The University of Florida Police Department have free bicycle registration programs for both students and residents.
- GPD's program is an on-line application. Once completed, a registration sticker is mailed to the applicant.
- UFPD's program mandates that the individuals come to the police station to turn in the application and then they receive a sticker.
- Alachua County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is evaluating the potential of teaming up with GPD to have a combined registration program.

Law

- An ordinance could be drafted to establish a mandatory bicycle registration/licensing program for all bicycles in the City. It has been done in several other jurisdictions, but the fees are usually \$1.00 or free.

Pro Argument

- Bicycle registration of all bicycles in the city could assist in the recovery of stolen bicycles and the apprehension of the individuals who stole the bicycle.

Con Argument

- Licensing and Registration could be seen as punitive and costly to a bicyclist instead of a tool to assist law enforcement.
- Deters individuals from cycling
- Lower income individuals may not be able to pay fines or pay for registration/licensing fees.

Fiscal Note: None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission hear a presentation from staff and provide guidance as appropriate.

[130932a_1983 Bicycle Ordinance_20140728](#)

[130932b_Internet Forum about Bicycle Licenses_20140728](#)

[130932c_BicycleRegistrationMemo_20140728](#)

[130932d_Bicycle Registration PPT_20140728](#)

[130932e_StudentsforhteNewUrbanisamLetter_20140728](#)

[140151.](#)

Review of Public Safety Committee Pending Referral Items (B)

Explanation: The City Commission conducted a review of pending referrals from all committees at the meeting on July 28, 2014. The current Public Safety Committee list reflects the items that remain for the Committee to discuss at future meetings.

Fiscal Note: None

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee review the Committee's referral list and determine an action plan to discuss the pending referrals.

[140151_PSCPendingReferralsUpdatedList_20140728](#)

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting is August 25, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT