



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

18-0840

Agenda Date: 3/7/2019

2019 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 19-01

TITLE Consider the Feasibility of Establishing an Eruv in Sunnyvale

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Community Development Department

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers: Hendricks, Larsson

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

At the August 28, 2018 City Council meeting, Mayor Hendricks sponsored a study issue to consider creating an eruv within Sunnyvale after receiving a request by the South Peninsula Hebrew School.

An eruv is a Jewish term for a system that integrates a number of private and public domains and creates a larger technical private domain within the context of Jewish law. Under Jewish law, it is forbidden to carry certain items, regardless of their weight, size or purpose, from a private domain into a public domain during the certain Jewish holidays, such as the Sabbath. The creation of an eruv permits observant individuals to carry these items within the eruv as an extension of the private domain and thereby allows for greater community mobility during these holidays.

An eruv can be comprised of a series of pre-existing structures (walls, fences, electrical poles and wires) and/or minor structures created expressly for the eruv, often a wire mounted on poles, to minimize disruption to the surrounding community. Staff anticipates that as part of the study the South Peninsula Hebrew School would need to outline the eruv boundaries and physical characteristics of any new elements needed to complete the eruv.

What are the key elements of the study?

This study will consider the feasibility and legality of establishing an eruv in Sunnyvale and may:

- Identify issues and concerns relating to public safety;
- Determine appropriate reviewing body and process for an eruv application;
- Create design guidelines and criteria in the review of an eruv;
- Identify maintenance needs and responsibilities that need to be addressed with the eruv

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application;

- Research best practices on the creation of an eruv.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

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| Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): | Moderate |
| Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs: | \$50,000 |
| Funding Source: | N/A |

Costs to conduct the study consist of staff hours by Public Works, Community Development, and City Attorney's office. Staff hours devoted to this study issue would impact development review timelines and performance standards without supplemental funding. Proposed funding would allow the Public Works Department to use temporary staffing, overtime, or hire a consultant for a portion of the study issue.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, which could include public outreach.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: No

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2019 Study Issues Workshop.

Prepared by: Arnold Chu, Senior Engineer, Public Works

Reviewed by: Chip Taylor, Director, Public Works

Reviewed by: Trudi Ryan, Director, Community Development

Reviewed by: John Nagel, City Attorney

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager