



Burien

Washington, USA

City of Burien

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2016

TO: City Council

FROM: Tony Piasecki, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

City Manager's Office

- On Monday, November 11th, I met with staff to discuss our code enforcement process. I found the process to be well thought out and well managed, particularly given that it is a reactive, complaint driven process. Cases move through the process in a steady, predictable way and the most egregious ones are being taken to court to gain compliance or to give the City the ability to abate the problems directly.
- We are setting up interviews for our vacant Communications Officer position during the week after Thanksgiving.
- I have reviewed all of the applications for the vacant Economic Development Manager position and have cut the list of candidates to consider down to 14 from the 37 applications we received. I've asked staff members to review the top 14 to help me get to the 4-6 we will interview. As a reminder, I will have a staff panel interview the finalists for the position, along with a community panel, to include representatives from the City Council and Burien Business and Economic Development Partnership (BEDP).
- Along with Laura Crandall, Local Government Management Fellow, I visited the offices and shelter operations of C.A.R.E.S. to help me better understand their operations and to see how they provide animal control and sheltering services.
- I attended today's BEDP meeting. There are currently two vacant positions on the BEDP that expire in 2019 and six individuals in positions that will expire in 2017, with at least one of those individuals not being eligible for re-appointment.

Legal

- The Legal Department has been triaging and prioritizing our worst code enforcement cases for legal action in District Court.
- There have been several incidents at the VIP Hookah Lounge in recent months, with two "shots fired" incidents in the last few weeks. City Attorney Lisa Marshall has been working with the Police Department and outside legal counsel to address this situation.

Community Development

- The final administrative decision on the marijuana grow/processing facility (to be located at 1050 South 140th Street in the NERA) should be out soon.
- The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for next week has been cancelled.

Economic Development

- Saturday, November 26th is “Shop Local Saturday”. Discover Burien has issued a press release encouraging residents to patronize our local businesses. In their press release, Discover Burien notes that “When we shop local we support the businesses owned by our friends and neighbors. We contribute to the investment in our community. An article published by the American Independent Business Alliance indicates that ‘for every dollar we spend locally, three dollars comes back to our community’. Small Businesses are also more likely to donate to local charities, sports teams and non-profits. They, like you, are invested in our community. Small Business Saturday is our chance to thank our small businesses for all that they do for us through out each year.”
- Economic Development Specialist Chris Craig was contacted by a Chinese company looking for a location for their planned North American headquarters for a small to medium sized office and light manufacturing operation. They want to either be in Seattle or near SeaTac Airport. The Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County (of which we are a member) referred them to Burien.

Police

- Incidents of note:
 - On November 11th, at 10:30 pm, an officer was flagged down by a motorist in the 14800 block of 1st Ave, who said someone had pointed a gun at her after she honked at him for cutting her off. Officers found the suspect a short time later and placed him into custody and recovered a loaded gun. He was booked for assault and DUI.
 - At midnight on November 12th, officers responded to investigate several nighttime burglaries which had just occurred in the 13400 block of 7th Ave South. They located and arrested the suspect who had a backpack full of stolen property and confessed to each incident. He was booked into jail.
 - On November 13th, at 11:30 pm, officers responded to the 15700 block of 4th Ave South to investigate a 911 hang-up and located three subjects in the area. One of them had stab wounds to his facial area and was taken to Harborview hospital for treatment. His girlfriend was booked into jail for felony assault.
- Capt. Howard met with the lead social worker at Highline Hospital to discuss involuntary transports and working together more effectively.
- Chief Kimerer and Captain Howard met with the owner of the VIP Hookah Lounge after presenting him with a Chronic Nuisance Property notice 12 days ago. He was issued a citation for failure to respond to the Notice and provided the opportunity to suspend his business which violates State Law. He refused. The owner also confirmed that the 11/7 incident where 25+shots were fired into the business while open, had Gang involvement. Referred to the City Attorney for next steps.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services

- Interviews for the Department's open Maintenance Supervisor position were held last week.
- The Department is in the process of hiring employees to staff the new Highline High School after-school program.
- The Recreation Guide is in the final stages of preparation and should be ready to go out within two weeks.
- The Moshier Holiday Pottery Sale is Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Moshier Arts Center, 430 South 156th Street. A preview party will be held on Friday, December 2nd from 5-7:00 pm.

Public Works

- In June 2016, City Council approved a letter of agreement with the US Attorney's office regarding accessibility (ADA) concerns at City Hall. Staff has obtained bids and secured contractors to complete the voluntary remediation stipulated in this agreement which includes providing additional ADA parking on South 152nd Street, and for replacing the drinking fountain at City Hall. Staff expects the work to be completed by the end of this year, and to be well under the original \$100,000 estimate that was given to Council in June.
- Construction on a surface water project at SW 158th Street and 4th Avenue SW began approximately two weeks ago. The contractor is about half done with the work. The project entails installation of a piping and erosion control in a ravine.

Human Resources

- Proposals to secure the services of an executive search firm to help the City Council hire our next City Manager are due by close of business on November 21st.

Finance

- IT staff completed a project the weekend of November 11-13 to separate our phone and data systems. The project was completed successfully. Many thanks to Systems & GIS Administrator Fernando Llamas and his team for accomplishing this work during non-business hours, thus keeping disruption to our operations to a minimum!
- Finance Director Kim Krause and staff interviewed five candidates for our open IT Help Desk position.
- As noted in my November 9th weekly report, Finance Director Krause is serving on a state task force studying the business licensing and B&O tax collection processes of cities in Washington to see if the state should consider taking over these processes. Kim reports that the business community representatives on the task force are leaning towards the state taking on the business licensing function but leaving the collection of B&O taxes in the hands of the cities. Having the state collect B&O taxes on cities' behalf was of concern because we were worried that the state would keep a portion of the revenue collected—which they do for sales tax revenue—as their fee for providing the services, resulting in less revenue to the cities.