



AGENCY:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	October 13, 2015
DEPARTMENT:	Public Woks
PREPARED BY:	Tom Varga
PRESENTED BY:	Tom Varga

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### **TITLE:**

**RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF A PORTABLE TOILET IN THE CITY HALL PARKING LOT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF**

### **ISSUE:**

Based on an earlier citizen request, the Public Works Committee discussed providing a 24-7 restroom downtown. During the Committee meeting, the City Hall parking lot was identified as a potential location for a portable toilet. At the Committee's direction, staff has examined this idea and is providing additional information for the City Council to consider and discuss.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

After discussion, the Council can direct staff how it wishes to proceed.

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

No action. Do not install a portable toilet downtown.

### **ANALYSIS:**

Recently, a concern has been expressed that there are inadequate public facilities for people that are living on the streets, especially during the night. One of the most important facilities is a restroom that is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Downtown appears to be the area where the demand for such a facility is greatest.

Historically, meeting this need has been difficult. In or near downtown are public restrooms at Bainbridge Park and Town Hall. Restrooms at these locations are not open at night due to severe vandalism, high maintenance effort to keep these facilities acceptably sanitary, and regular problems with various illicit activities.

At its September 17, 2015 meeting, the Public Works and Facilities Committee considered and discussed this matter. The Committee concluded that a portable toilet might be easier to manage than a traditional restroom. Placing a portable toilet somewhere in the City Hall parking lot was suggested as a location. This location is relatively well-lit at night and visible.

In addition to the City Hall parking lot, other locations may be considered. There is a graveled space on the north side of Town Hall that could accommodate a portable toilet. The City parking lot next to the Footlighters Theater is another possibility.

The City of Fort Bragg presently owns a portable toilet that is located in the north parking lot serving the Noyo Headlands Park (aka Coastal Trail). Unfortunately, this unit is not compliant with the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and cannot be used as a downtown restroom. It works at the park because ADA compliant facilities are located nearby. A new ADA compliant portable toilet unit would need to be purchased or leased.

There are three fundamental issues to consider. First, is the genuine need to provide a restroom facility for people living on the streets at night. There is an existing problem of people relieving

themselves inappropriately on private property for lack of a better place. Second, there will be a substantial, daily effort required for the City's maintenance and operations staff to keep such a Downtown restroom minimally clean and useable to the general public. Third, an unfortunate minority take advantage of such an important and basic facility as a place for criminal behavior. Security for, and the patrolling of, a downtown restroom needs to be a regular and aggressive commitment to avoid loitering and illicit activity. This would be an added patrol activity for our Police Department. While the need is obvious, successfully providing a facility to meet this need will require the expenditure of substantial money and staff resources to maintain acceptable levels of public hygiene and security.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

After review by staff, the following ongoing operational and maintenance issues have been identified. Assuming that the Downtown portable toilet receives similar usage as the Coastal Trail location, pumping the unit three times a week will cost about \$100 weekly. Other servicing and supplies will need to be done daily by City staff to keep the portable toilet reasonably clean and will cost about \$225 weekly. The total weekly cost is estimated to be \$325.

The portable toilet that is currently owned by the City is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Purchase of a new unit will cost about \$5,000.

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

With Council authorization, the servicing of a portable toilet at a new location in the City Hall parking lot can be accomplished in under 30 days. Purchase or lease of a new ADA compliant portable toilet is estimated to be about 30 days.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.

**City Clerk's Office Use Only**

Agency Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Amended
Resolution No.:	_____	Ordinance No.:	_____
Moved by:	_____	Seconded by:	_____
Vote:	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred/Continued to meeting of:	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to:	_____		