

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: OPEN GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS
STAFF PRESENTER: SEAN McGLYNN, CITY MANAGER

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

ISSUE(S)

Shall the Council, by motion, provide direction to staff regarding implementation of the Open Government Task Force Report recommendations?

BACKGROUND

1. In January 2014, former Mayor Bartley appointed an 11-member Open Government Task Force to evaluate the City's current policies and procedures in order to provide recommendations to the City Council on how to improve openness and transparency in Santa Rosa. The Open Government Task Force, led by former Vice Mayor Swinth and Council Member Carlstrom, met semi-monthly between April and November 2014.
2. On December 2, 2014, the City Council received and accepted the Open Government Task Force Report.

ANALYSIS

1. The recommendations of the Open Government Task Force fall into the following four groups:
 1. Immediate Actions for Council
 - 1.1 Set a Council goal of "Open and Transparent Government"
 - 1.2 Set three strategic objectives for the organization
 - Hire a communications director
 - Adopt a sunshine ordinance based on Task Force recommendations
 - Create a City mission statement which embraces community engagement
 2. Develop a Culture that Values Public Engagement
 3. Develop a Culture Focused on Communication
 4. Develop Policies that Promote Openness

2. Staff seeks Council direction regarding implementation of these recommendations. Council may also wish to direct staff to provide additional information regarding proposed timelines and/or cost and resource impacts related to specific recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Manager that the Council, by motion, provide direction to staff regarding implementation of the Open Government Task Force Report recommendations.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Open Government Task Force Report