



# Response to City Code Violations

City Council Meeting  
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# Quality of Life Ordinances

- Broad array of ordinances designed to preserve quality of life in Santa Rosa, including:
  - Weed and rubbish abatement
  - Noise limitations
  - Restrictions on alcohol consumption in public
  - Public urination and defecation
  - Graffiti
  - Obstruction of streets and sidewalks
  - Aggressive panhandling
  - Camping on public and private property
  - Others

# Authorized Enforcement Methods

- City Code Chapter 1-28:
  - Unless otherwise provided, violations of Code prohibitions constitute misdemeanor
  - City Attorney given discretion to prosecute instead as infraction
  - City Attorney given discretion to pursue through administrative or civil proceedings

# Misdemeanor vs Infraction

- Misdemeanor:
  - Fine up to \$1000
  - Up to six months in jail
  - Or both
- Infraction:
  - Fine only
  - First conviction: up to \$250
  - Second or subsequent conviction within one year: up to \$500

# Past Enforcement Practices

- Infraction and misdemeanor citations / arrests
- Prosecuted through the cooperative efforts of Police, Office of the City Attorney and the Office of the District Attorney
- Code Enforcement Division focused on Building, Zoning, Health and Safety Code violations on private property

# Current Enforcement Practices

- Police issue infraction citations for City Code violations
- Misdemeanor citations generally issued only for State criminal code violations
- City Code violations not referred to District Attorney

# Current Enforcement Practices

- Office of the City Attorney involved only in civil and administrative enforcement
- Code Enforcement Division continues to issue citations on nuisance cases; uses civil and administrative hearings on health and safety issues

# Intended Enforcement

- Resumption of misdemeanor citations where appropriate
  - Serious violations
  - Repeated violations
- Partnerships needed with District Attorney, County Sheriff and Courts
  - District Attorney agreed to take on prosecution
  - Initiating coordination with Sheriff and Courts
  - Providing diversion opportunities when violator identifies as homeless
- Where appropriate, coordination with non-profit service providers



# Code Enforcement Division

- Will remain unchanged:
  - Focus on Building, Zoning, Health and Safety Codes
  - Focus on private property
  - Seek resolution of most cases at lowest administrative level
  - If voluntary compliance is not achieved, administrative citations may be issued
  - Misdemeanor citation is utilized if violations occur 3 or more times in a 12 month period

QUESTIONS?