

City of Santa Rosa



Legislation Details

File #: 20-0941 **Version:** 1 **Name:** Open Government Ordinance
Type: CC- Report **Status:** Agenda Ready
File created: 11/16/2020 **In control:** City Council
On agenda: 12/1/2020 **Final action:**
Title: REPORT - ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - OPEN GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE

BACKGROUND: In 2014, then Mayor Scott Bartley convened the Mayor's Open Government Task Force to study and make recommendations to improve openness and transparency in Santa Rosa municipal government. The Task Force presented its report in December 2014. Among its recommendations was the adoption of a "Sunshine Ordinance" that would support transparency and open government through local policies that would strengthen the minimum requirements of state law.

The Sunshine Ordinance now proposed is the result of a lengthy series of meetings of the Council's Open Government Task Force Implementation Subcommittee. Those meetings provided an extensive opportunity for public participation. Among other provisions, the proposed Sunshine Ordinance would require: (1) posting of the Council's preliminary agenda twelve business days prior to any regularly-scheduled Council meeting; (2) posting of supporting documents on a rolling basis, as those documents become available; (3) posting of the Council's final agenda four business days prior to any regularly-scheduled Council meeting; (4) expansion of the contents of City Council agendas; (5) all Council agendas to be provided in English and Spanish and all Council meetings to include Spanish translation; (6) management of Council meetings to facilitate public participation; (7) enhanced procedures for the processing of public records requests and an administrative appeal process for requests not granted; (8) website posting of specified data generated by City departments; and (9) preparation of a Citizens Guidebook to support and encourage public participation.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Open Government Task Force Implementation Subcommittee that the Council introduce an Open Government Ordinance to improve openness and transparency in Santa Rosa municipal government through the establishment of new local standards to supplement the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act and the Public Records Act.

Sponsors:

Indexes: Not a Project

Code sections: 15378 - Not a Project

Attachments: 1. Staff Report, 2. Ordinance, 3. Presentation, 4. REVISED Presentation (Uploaded 12-01-2020)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/1/2020	1	City Council	to waive reading of the text and introduce as amended	Pass