

MEMO

TO: City Council
FROM: Ordinance Committee
RE: Ordinance Updates
DATE: March 22, 2010

This is a brief memo to summarize matters referred to the Ordinance Committee during the term of the present City Council that we have not been able to complete our work on and refer back to the Council.

Livable Wage: The Ordinance was referred so that it could be reviewed and, if necessary, updated. The ordinance was adopted in 2001 and while adjusted annually, no previous review has been undertaken and no amendments to the ordinance have been made. At this point, the Committee is preparing its recommendations after having placed the item on its agenda several times and having taken expert testimony, received extensive public comment, considered feedback from City departments and engaged in significant internal discussion. The hope is to present the recommendations to the next Board of Finance for purposes of having the recommendations considered from a financial impact perspective before presenting proposed amendments to the next City Council for consideration.

Smoking on the Marketplace: By motion, the Committee has agreed that the issue of smoking on the Marketplace requires further discussion, with a particular focus on researching business centers and the impact of bans on commerce. It is the hope of the Committee that the next Council's Ordinance Committee will continue to look into these issues.

Noise Ordinance: The Council, by resolution, referred the Noise Ordinance to the Committee for purposes of exploring and considering possible revisions to the ordinance. A preliminary review suggests that the principal problem may be one of resource allocation and the ultimate recommendation of the Committee may well be that the matter be referred to the Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee for consideration of non-ordinance solutions to the problem. It is the hope of the Committee, however, that prior to making any recommendation, that the next Council's Ordinance Committee will continue to take up a more complete review of the existing Noise Ordinance for purposes of assuring the Council that it provides the City with all necessary tools to address Noise complaints (assuming the resources to enforce were/are available).