

STAFF REPORT

To: Public Safety Committee Date: June 1, 2015
 From: Paul J. Fetherston, Assistant City Manager
 Subject: Timeline and Next Steps associated with ordinances addressing street performers and sidewalk vending

Summary Statement: The purpose of this memo is to provide the Public Safety Committee with an update on the proposed timeline and next steps associated with ordinances addressing (a) street performers; and (b) sidewalk vending in the central business district.

Review: During the April 27 meeting of the Public Safety Committee (Committee), staff provided the Committee with an update on sidewalk vending and street performers in the central business district. The update included an overview of relevant current ordinances, proposals by the Asheville Buskers Collective/ Asheville Downtown Association and staff recommendations. After the presentation of information and Committee discussion, staff was asked to develop a timeline and next steps to consider the following for purposes of developing options:

Street Performers:

- Review distances between performers/ performances including marking spaces appropriate for performers/ performances
- Establish reasonable sign regulations similar to other commercial signs to the solicitation ordinance

Street Vending

- Review permitting sales by means other than a pushcart

Based on Committee feedback, staff is working towards completing research, and engaging in dialogues with cross-departmental staff whose functions or the functions of Boards/ Commission would be impacted by any adjustments. The proposed timeline and next steps are outlined below for the Committee’s information. The proposed timeline is impacted by (a) existing work plans that did not encompass this work; (b) public engagement of all potential stakeholders including appropriate boards and commissions; and (c) review and feedback from Public Safety Committee.

ITEM	TIMEFRAME
Staff research and development of information, options and recommendations for Committee consideration	Now through August 24
Presentation of information, options and recommendations to Committee – including recommended public engagement process for options	August 24 Public Safety Committee meeting
Public Engagement process regarding options – including overall community; downtown merchants, residents and businesses; busking community; appropriate boards and commissions	September through October
Presentation of outcomes of public engagement process; options; and staff recommendations	October 26 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Presentation of recommended ordinance changes to City Council	November 10 or 24
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Next Steps: Staff will continue to move forward with this timeline and keep the Committee advised of any adjustments. Staff will be prepared to develop alternative timelines based on any Committee feedback provided.