

NEWS ADVISORY

June 2, 2003

The Salt Lake City Council will hold a public hearing June 3 on a proposed ordinance that would close, vacate and abandon a public pedestrian access and passage easement that crosses what is known as the Main Street Plaza located on the former Main Street right of way between North Temple and South Temple streets.

The public hearing will start at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Room 315, in the City & County Building, 451 South State Street. The hearing will be broadcast live on Salt Lake City's cable television channel, Channel 17.

The City Council will take no action on the proposed ordinance after the hearing. The City Council tentatively has scheduled formal consideration of the proposed ordinance for its meeting Thursday, June 5.

Each person who wishes to speak at the hearing will be given two minutes to express his or her opinion. To protect the rights of speakers to be heard, to foster civil discussion and to preserve the decorum of the Council Chamber the City Council requests that no signs or placards be brought into the Chamber and that the audience refrain from any demonstrations including clapping, cheering and jeering during the hearing.

The proposed ordinance is based upon Petition No. 400-03-01 submitted by Mayor Ross C. Anderson. Mayor Anderson proposed that the City close, vacate and abandon the easement in accordance with those procedures set forth in state law, including receiving fair market value for such easement. The Mayor also proposes that the City resolve certain existing and potential litigation through an exchange of property and cash which would be used to build public facilities related to the existing Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center at 855 West California Avenue.

The City Council also will take public comment on other options involving the easement including keeping the easement and enacting regulations governing conduct on it, or waiting until the U.S. Supreme Court determines whether to hear an appeal of a decision by the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals involving the easement.

Due to anticipated overflow of people in the Council Chamber seating in the hall outside the Chamber and in Room 326 will be available.

For more information please contact City Council Executive Director Cindy Gust-Jenson at 535-7600 or Public Policy Analyst Russell Weeks at 535-6206.