



# Open Government Task Force: History and Recommendations Overview

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OGTF Implementation Subcommittee Meeting  
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# Overview

- Creation and work of the Open Government Task Force (OGTF)
- OGTF Recommendations
  - What they are
  - Implementation Status
- A Sunshine Ordinance
  - 2016 Draft Ordinance Drafted
  - Council Consideration – March 29, 2016

# Mayor's Open Government Task Force (OGTF)

- Convened in 2014 by Mayor Scott Bartely to obtain recommendations about how to improve openness and transparency in Santa Rosa municipal government.
- Community members asked for:
  - Improved communications
  - Improved collaboration
  - Access to decision makers
  - Voices to be acknowledged and efforts respected during governmental decision-making processes

# OGTF Recommendations

1. Immediate Actions for Council
  - 1.1 Set a Council goal of “Open and Transparent Government”
  - 1.2 Set three strategic objectives for the organization
    - Hire a communications director
    - Adopt a sunshine ordinance based on OGTF recommendations
    - Create a City mission statement which embraces community engagement
2. Develop a Culture that Values Public Engagement
3. Develop a Culture Focused on Communication
4. Develop Policies that Promote Openness

# Immediate Actions for Council

- Community Engagement Director position created in 2015
- City Public Information and Governmental Affairs Officer hired in December 2017
- Sunshine Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> draft came to Council in March 2016
- Council has included transparency as a value and has made open government a goal

# Develop a Culture that Values Public Engagement

2.1 Genuinely engage and partner with neighborhoods, volunteers, businesses, institutions, and other organizations which support our community

2.2 Establish Santa Rosa as a leader in civic engagement with the goal of increasing Openness, Transparency and Accountability

2.3 Close the communication loop – acknowledge the value of community input, wisdom, and participation

# Public Engagement, cont.

2.4 Increase opportunities for diverse community engagement and effective participation

2.5 Build a strong civic infrastructure – educate people about how best to engage

# Developing a Culture of Communication

## 3.1 Create a Communications Director Position

- Director of Community Engagement
- Public Information and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer
- Marketing and Outreach Coordinators

## 3.2 Overhaul City's website to create an effective tool for residents



# Develop Policies that Promote Openness

4.1 Draft and adopt a Sunshine Ordinance that supports transparency and open government through policies that exceed minimum requirements and statutes for meetings and public records

4.2 Policy recommendations that exceed minimum requirements and statutes for meetings and public records

# Questions?

# Sunshine Ordinance

# Sunshine Ordinance - Purpose

- Adopts new practices based on the recommendations of the Mayor's Open Government Task Force.
- Clarifies and supplements the Brown Act and California Public Records Act (CPRA).
- Codifies City's existing policies and adopts new practices.
- Fosters openness and transparency in City government, and provides opportunities to have more inclusive civic participation.

# Ordinance Highlights

## Public Access to Meetings:

- Agenda Requirements; Regular Meetings, Closed Session, Litigation Reports, Emergencies
- Broadcast of Meetings
- Public Comment

## Public Records:

- Release of Public Records
- Responsibilities of Staff
- Disclosure of Records
- Website Information
- Complaints Regarding Requests of Public Records

# Questions?