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Choose an item.

**DEPARTMENT:** Economic Development

**FROM:** Joni Van Noy, Economic Development Coordinator

**MEETING:** June 2, 2025

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**SUBJECT:**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on an overview of the Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza policy. (*Staff Contact: Joni Van Noy, Economic Development Coordinator*)

**SUMMARY:**

Staff would like to gather feedback regarding the current governing policy for the Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza in Old Town. Discussion topics may include but are not limited to: current lighting schedule, restroom facilities, reservation fees, and any other concerns the committee members may have. Your input is essential to ensure that we continue to improve the plaza's management and address any areas that may need attention.

The Plaza policy was first presented to Council in March 2020, following a work session held in which Council and staff outlined policy preferences. In March 2021, Council approved a policy amendment in which supported a half-day rental fee. The City's fee schedule was amended in accordance with the half-day rental in May 2021.

The Plaza's policy highlights the following areas: hours of operation, reservations, rental fees/deposits, prohibited actions and equipment, supplies and utilities. The policy does not, however, address the Plaza's lighting schedule and/or restroom facility hours of operation.

Both lighting and restroom facility timers have been altered a number of times since the Plaza's opening due to safety/vandalism concerns. Originally, the Plaza lights were programmed to turn on 30 minutes prior to sunset and turn off at midnight in accordance with the policy's hours of operation as listed (5:00 AM- 12:00 AM midnight). However, since numerous nearby establishments close later than midnight, late night visitors and vandalism were occurring after hours, thus making it difficult to identify on surveillance footage. Burleson PD recommended staff program the lights to stay on throughout the night in an effort to deter unwanted activity in the Plaza.

Because restrooms do not allow surveillance for privacy reasons, they are often targeted with vandalism. Currently, the Plaza restrooms lock at 5:30 p.m., following close of business of city facilities in the vicinity. Restroom times are altered as needed in accordance with events taking place in the place (i.e. Farmer's Market).

**PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):**

On April 23, 2025 Staff presented this item to the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee. It was their recommendation to leave the Plaza public restrooms unlocked until 10:00 p.m. daily.

Additionally, they asked staff to explore alternatives to the blue foam blocks currently used in the children's play area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A

**REFERENCE:**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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