

Council Meeting of: September 17, 2007
Agenda Item: 6.2 (a)



CITY OF SALEM,
OREGON
City Council
555 Liberty Street SE, Room 220
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-588-6159

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dan Clem, City Councilor – Ward 8
Subject: Protection of Home Addresses

Motion:

I move that staff provide information on methods to protect individual home addresses and phone numbers for citizens providing oral and/or written testimony to City Council, Planning Commission, and its boards/commissions.

Discussion:

Any contact information submitted as part of oral or written testimony can be used by identity thieves to contact a citizen, misrepresent a citizen, or to subject the citizen to unwanted, unauthorized contact lists. Recently, a citizen was contacted by a firm who indicated that they discovered her home address in a Google Search, which was obtained from City public record written testimony. As emails provide some indirect protection from contact, home address information can be used to contact or misrepresent vulnerable citizens in our community. Knowing that proof or stated information about residing within the city limits may be a requirement for standing in a Council matter, it is reasonable in certain circumstances, that identification or affirmation of city-citizenship would be required. However, in much of the oral and/or written testimony (non-email) Council receives, personal contact information should not be required. This area may be governed by Council rule, City charter, or just by past-practice. Council should ensure that it only creates public record related to an individual's contact or location to the minimum extent necessary. Hence, Council should consider information staff brings forward related to this matter.