



# **Hotel-Motel Ordinance Proposal**

**Presentation to the Public Safety Committee  
June 21, 2010**

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## **PURPOSE**

- **Public Safety Committee asked the Police Department to research the possibility of enacting a Hotel-Motel ordinance for Mesa**
- **The Department has researched similar ordinances in other cities and has held meetings with stakeholders to discuss a possible ordinance**
- **Although significant progress has been made, more time is needed to work with stakeholders to resolve some outstanding issues**

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## **BACKGROUND**

- Hotels, motels, and the tourism industry are very important to the City of Mesa (City)
- Equally important is maintaining the quality of life through improved public safety for citizens living, working or visiting our City
- The transitory nature of the Hotel-Motel business tends to increase their susceptibility to criminal activity
- Currently, the City does not have a Hotel-Motel Ordinance to assist Police Officers as a crime-fighting tool

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## **ANTICIPATED BENEFITS**

- A Hotel-Motel Ordinance would:
  - Reduce calls for Police Service, which would allow the MPD to redirect its limited resources
  - Discourage career criminals from utilizing these rooms for illicit and illegal activities
  - Allow Hotel-Motel industry to self-regulate
  - Improve conditions for Hotel-Motel industry customers and community members because of improved premises safety

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## ***CURRENT SITUATION***

- Citywide, some hotels-motels generate repeated calls for police service and complaints of criminal activity
- In 2009, 6% of all warrant arrests and 4% of all drug arrests in the City occurred at hotels-motels
  - The Top-10 hotel-motel “problem” properties account for 49% of warrant arrests and 64% of drug arrests of all hotel and motels

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## ***CURRENT PRACTICES***

- Some of the current practices that impact effective policing and encourage criminal activity in and around the hotel-motel area include:
  - not obtaining identification
  - failing to maintain accurate records
  - renting rooms by the hour or monthly
- Such practices have contributed to a variety of unlawful activities that negatively impact our community, such as prostitution and soliciting

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A City Hotel-Motel Ordinance is recommended
- A Hotel-Motel Ordinance would assist police efforts to ensure that the quality of life of citizens living, working or visiting our City is not compromised by criminal activity
- The Hotel-Motel Ordinance would require that operators:
  - Obtain identification from persons renting a room and the total number of room occupants. The person renting the room name and date of birth would be maintained by the premises for the duration of the stay.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Requiring identification will discourage persons who commit crimes from using these rooms for the purpose of committing crimes
- The Hotel-Motel Ordinance would also require that a hotel or motel place certain obligations on a guest such as:
  - Prohibition from registering under false name
  - Prohibition from providing false identification

## **CURRENT STATUS**

- MPD and Hotel-Motel industry representatives have held five meetings
- The MPD has shared best practices with Hotel-Motel industry representatives
- Success in improving communication between the MPD and the Hotel-Motel industry has led to:
  - Agreement to develop a Hotel-Motel Review Board for purposes of self-regulation
  - Agreement to work with MPD to develop training for implementation of City Code requirements
  - Increased understanding by MPD of current technological trends in the Hotel-Motel industry

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## **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

- Obtaining license plate and vehicle description from vehicles parked on Hotel-Motel property
- 1-year record retention requirement
- Concerns over open inspections
- Concerns over new technology that conflicts with inspection methodology – for example Internet and Kiosk reservations and check-in

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## **REQUESTING**

- Although tremendous progress has been made in working with stakeholders to craft key elements of a hotel/motel ordinance, work still remains
- Requesting an additional 90 days to complete work with stakeholders and return to the Public Safety Committee with a firm proposal