



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, November 17, 2020

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City of Mountain View to Consider Next Steps for Measure C

City Council to adopt certified local election results next month

Mountain View, Calif. — At the Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020 meeting, the City Council will discuss the next steps for implementing the City of Mountain View ordinance that would restrict the parking of oversized vehicles, including recreational vehicles (RVs), on narrow streets if Ballot Measure C passes. The Council is also planning to adopt the certification of local election results at the same meeting. The Council's actions are dependent on the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' certification of the election results, which is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 3.

As of Nov. 14, 2020, Measure C is passing by 56.51% with 97% of all county ballots counted.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which streets are considered narrow in Mountain View?

A: Out of 140 miles, approximately 110 miles of City streets, or 78.6% of all City streets, could potentially qualify as narrow streets. The City is nearing the end of a 6-week-long process to measure all streets that are around 40 feet wide through a standardized methodology. Only streets that are 40 feet or less will be subject to the ordinance if Measure C is approved by the voters.

Q: What is the definition of an oversized vehicle?

A: The City ordinance defines an oversized vehicle as any vehicle, or combination of connected vehicles, which exceeds 22 feet in length or 7 feet in width or 7 feet in height, such as recreational vehicles, boats and large trucks.

Q: Are there exceptions to what the City considers an oversized vehicle?

A: Yes, the proposed definition of oversized vehicles would generally exclude passenger vans and pickup trucks. Also permissible are wheelchair-accessible vans with a valid placard or license, oversized vehicles that are parked for short duration activities such as for loading and unloading, and emergency vehicles.

Q: If the voters approve Measure C, how soon would the ordinance go into effect?

A: Once the vote is declared by the City Council, the ordinance would go into effect 10 days after that date. Right now, the Council is scheduled to take action at the Dec. 8 meeting, which would mean the ordinance could go into effect as soon as Friday, Dec. 18.

Q: How soon would the City start enforcing the Narrow Streets Ordinance and ticketing oversized vehicles parked on narrow streets?

A: Per the ballot measure, the City can only legally begin enforcement of the ordinance when the City Council approves a resolution that names the specific streets AND signage is installed on the particular street.

Q: Would the City have to wait until signage is installed on all narrow streets in Mountain View before enforcement can begin?

A: No. Enforcement may begin for individual streets as soon as signage is installed.

Q: How long will it take to install all the narrow street signage?

A: The Public Works Department estimates that it will take up to one year to cover the whole city. This timeline includes the bidding and manufacture process for the signs, the engineering to determine the sign placement along the 110 miles of narrow streets, and the sign installation work.

Q: In which neighborhoods will narrow street signage be installed first and last in Mountain View?

A: The City Council will discuss installation plans at the Dec. 8 meeting. Staff is currently assessing the cost estimates and further information will be provided in the staff report for the Dec. 8 Council meeting.

Q: What are the penalties for parking on a narrow street once enforcement begins?

A: Potential penalties include parking violation fees and the vehicle being towed at the registered owner's expense including the cost of all towing and storage fees.

Q: What happens to the individuals and families who are currently living in RVs and parking on potentially narrow streets?

A: Once enforcement is scheduled to begin, the City will conduct outreach to individuals who are parking their RV or oversized vehicle on a narrow street to inform them about the ordinance and provide options for where they can go. Among the options is the City's [Safe Parking Program](#) with five safe parking locations that provide a temporary, overnight, safe location to park while providing access to services that will transition them into more stable housing. In collaboration with nonprofit partner LifeMoves, the City will also launch Project Homekey by early 2021 to provide rapid housing to up to 300 homeless and unstably housed residents annually at a one-acre site in Mountain View.

Background on Narrow Streets Ordinance

The City Council had adopted the ordinance on Oct. 22, 2019. However, in December 2019, a referendum petition was filed and contained sufficient petition signatures for the ordinance to be repealed by the Council or placed on a future ballot. Per the requirements of the Elections Code, the ordinance was suspended and, in January 2020, the City Council placed the ordinance on the November ballot.

About the City of Mountain View

Located between the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Francisco Bay, Mountain View is a diverse community with an estimated population of 82,739. Mountain View covers just over 12 square miles, featuring over 1,000 acres of park and wildlife areas including the 750-acre wildlife and recreation area called Shoreline at Mountain View. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Mountain View is home to a vibrant downtown and headquarters to many nationally and internationally known corporations including Google, LinkedIn, Mozilla Foundation, Intuit and NASA Ames Research Center. For more information, visit MountainView.gov.

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