

Ballot wording gets nod

The Eugene city council Wednesday approved the wording of a ballot measure to repeal a council decision protecting gay rights.

The statement of purpose that will go on the ballot reads "to repeal Ordinance No. 18080 of the Eugene City Council, which prohibits in employment practices generally, in city contracts, in housing practices, and in public accomodation, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

The measure will be voted on

during the May 23 primary election.

However, confusion may arise over the language says Alice Rutter, community relations officer for the city. "The issue is whether to repeal the ordinance, not whether or not you're in favor of gay rights."

According to the city's finance office, the use of the negative, "Yes, I vote to repeal the ordinance" and the double negative "No, I vote not to repeal the ordi-

nance" is necessary to logically follow the wording of the petitions that placed the measure on the ballot.

The election is the result of efforts by anti-gay forces to repeal the council's original decision. They collected over 10,000 signatures toward that end.

In other business, the council also okayed a proposal that most designations of historic landmarks will no longer require a zoning change.

'Whistleblowers' may toot horns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major proposed changes for the Civil Service Commission may encourage government employees to blow the whistle on wrongdoing in their departments, an agency spokesman said Wednesday.

Such "whistleblowers" now often find themselves harassed by bosses after leaking information on irregularities to reporters or Congress.

Pres. Carter has approved the general idea of splitting the Civil Service Commission into two departments, said Jule Sugarman, vice chairman of the commission.

The plan suggested by the president's task force on government reorganization would provide a special counsel to review alleged harassment of whistleblowers and other political abuses of job rights.

The commission now has responsibility both for managing the federal personnel system and for protecting the rights of some two million employees.

Dividing those responsibilities between two agencies would prevent the commission from having to sit in judgement on its own ac-

tions, Sugarman said.

The two new agencies would be the Office of Personnel Management, which would oversee hiring, promotions and demotions, and a Merit Protection Board to hear appeals.

Commenting on government workers who know about coverups of errors, but who keep quiet because they may be demoted or transferred, Sugarman said: "Right now there is no way to get anyone to pursue action on something like this. That is one complaint of the whistleblowers."

Summer job rules available

Application procedures for summer civil service jobs have changed significantly for 1978.

The new procedures are fully explained in the "Summer Jobs Announcement" now available at Federal Job Information Centers.

This year the Civil Service Commission will test applicants for clerical jobs only. Applications for these positions will be accepted until Jan. 27 and the written test will be given in February. Summer 1977 examinations eligibles must reapply under the new procedures to be eligible in 1978.

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