

Ozone ordinance revision ends City Council debate

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

The City Council approved a revised ozone protecting ordinance for Eugene at a work session Wednesday, which ended much debate over enforcement and funding.

The new ordinance, which passed 5-4 with Mayor Ruth Bascom casting the deciding vote, will ban the sale or use of ozone-depleting products, only if they have developed a ozone-safe, cost-comparable substitute — instead of banning all products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals.

The law goes into effect July 1. Gary Houser, a spokesman for Save Our Ozone, the group that put a stricter ozone protection measure on the ballot last May,

said the new regulations were a "qualified victory" because they are not as strict as they need to be. Eugene voters turned down the ozone measure in last May's election 2-1.

In December the Council developed ozone laws that would have gone into effect this July. Since then, Bascom and other councilors have asked for revisions on the ordinance.

"There is potential for Eugene to lead the country in this type of law," Houser said after the meeting.

Although the new ordinance is a step in the right direction, Houser said, it does not have the same power as the original law.

Houser said the original proposal brought to the City Council in December, which he helped develop, asked for a cit-

izens advisory committee to help determine what products were in violation of the law. This revised law is at the discretion of the city manager, Houser said.

Councilor Shawn Boles opposed the revisions saying they just added insult to injury. They are not strong enough and do not provide enough restriction.

"This [the new regulations] simply drives a stake through its heart," Boles said.

Councilor Kevin Hornbuckle said he wanted to add a mandatory fine for repeated violations to make the ordinance more effective. The amendment failed.

The revisions are based on recommendations from Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, the council officers, letters from citizens, business concerns and research of similar type ordinances from other

cities. The new regulations will allow the city manager to use information from the United Nations Montreal Protocol and the Environmental Protection Agency in deciding what should be considered an ozone-depleting product.

At the work session on May 10 Boles objected to a change in the December language that said the city manager "may" rather than "shall" impose fines when a person violated the law. Hornbuckle brought up the motion again to change the word "may" to "shall" because, he said, it would be more effective than the way the revision reads.

"It sends the message that this is something you can flirt with," he said. The motion was defeated.

SAFE will review sexual assault codes

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

A new campus task force has formed to determine whether University Student Conduct Code rules comply with federal laws regarding student sexual assault complaints.

Students for a Sexual Assault Free Environment, a group of about 50 women and men, began meeting about a month ago to review state and federal regulations about sexual assaults and to see how University policies match up.

"If we find the University does not comply, we will develop a policy that is in compliance and can improve upon current University policy," said Heather Fowler, a senior and founder of SAFE. "I see it as a supportive thing for the University."

Elaine Greene, associate dean of students and student conduct coordinator, agreed. She said she appreciates the group's efforts in reviewing the policies. She added that she and the University are willing to work with the group to come up with acceptable policies, if needed.

SAFE members are specifically concerned that the University doesn't comply with the federal Campus Sexual Assault Victims Bill of Rights.

Group members are looking into whether the University complies with the following five areas, which the Victims Bill of Rights mandates for all universities receiving federal funding:

• Universities must inform rape survivors of their attackers' punishments.

SAFE members believe currently, this does not happen at the University.

Green said a recent amendment to the current policy now authorizes the University to release the punishment information to the student victim.

• Universities may not use language that downgrades a charge of rape.

Currently, the University refers to rape and sexual assaults as "unwanted sexual behavior."

The administration's Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force created the rule that uses this language, Green said. However, she said she would be willing to "revisit the rationale of this language."

• Universities must allow survivors to have legal representation and character witnesses that have been denied them but allowed to the attacker.

Currently, the University represents student victims and itself against perpetrators. Victims are allowed their own council, Green said, but the council would not represent the University, only the student.

• Universities must inform survivors that they have the right not to live in the same dorms or be in the same classes with their attacker. Rather, it must be the attacker that moves.

Currently, the University has no written policy about who should leave a classroom or

dorm in the case of sexual assaults. However, Green said there have been "many cases" where the student perpetrator has moved to another location.

• Universities must develop and distribute a policy about the campus's sexual assault programs and the procedures followed once a sex offense has occurred. The policy must include educational programs to promote awareness of sexual violence.

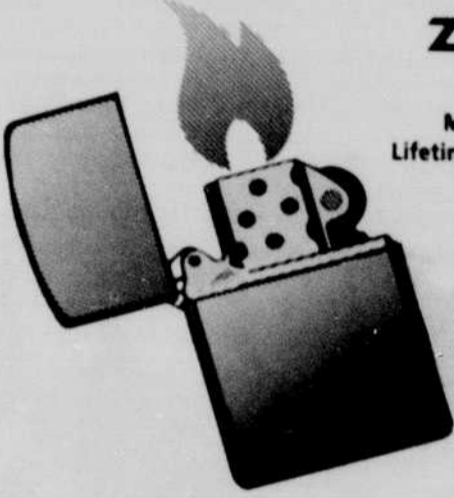
While the University does have sexual assault programs and classes in place, none are mandatory.

Group members have divided into five sub-groups to address the areas and establish a new policy, if necessary, to be recommended to the administration.

Fowler said she encourages all students to participate in the task force. Additionally, Fowler wants students who have had any experiences with University sexual assault policies and procedures to share them with the group or with her privately.

"I want the work we're doing to have real people and real experiences behind it," Fowler said. "This will allow us to change policy and do it through personal experiences to make it an effective and sensitive policy."


SAFE meets Monday nights at 8:30 in the EMU. Check the EMU calendar boards or the Women's Center for the meeting room, as it varies.



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