

DPS

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to make responsible decisions."

Additionally, the powers will allow DPS to quickly resolve incidents in which nonstudents are disrupting the University, Hicks said.

Currently, nine DPS officers are commissioned.

DPS policies have undergone further changes in accordance with the expanded powers. Now that DPS officers can cite students for possession of controlled substances without EPD help, they must also seize and store any evidence. Although DPS already has an evidence room, it had to build a locker for controlled substances and provide extra evidence training for officers.

"We'll have to confiscate evidence, properly secure it and, if necessary, present it during a court hearing," Hicks said.

Despite the City Council's quick approval of granting the powers, the issue was awash in controversy as ASUO officials clashed with the University administration over the lack of student input on the issue.

At the July 14 public hearing before the City Council, ASUO Campus Outreach Coordinator Shannon Tarvin decried the motion, saying students should have had more input. She also argued that ASUO was unable to give a position on the issue as a whole because inadequate time was provided for student input.

But the City Council did not heed ASUO's arguments, eventually passing the ordinance 7-1 after two amendments failed, one to limit the proposal and another to table it until students could offer more input on the issue.

Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly, who represents an area that includes the University and spear-

headed the two amendments, expressed concern about the lack of student voice but eventually voted in favor of the ordinance.

Shortly after the City Council voted to grant the powers, Tarvin promised that ASUO would begin, through the Public Safety Advisory Group, to lobby the administration to reconsider implementing the changes.

Tarvin said ASUO is still working toward that goal, but is more focused on convincing the administration to restrict the expanded powers to citing only for minor in possession and possession of less than an ounce. She said DPS originally pushed to have those two powers.

"If that's what they originally wanted, and that's what they mostly called EPD for, then we don't think they need all the powers," she said. "We're working to make (the changes) a benefit to students by making it seem as though they're

not being targeted or punished."

ASUO is also pushing to ensure that students don't receive two tickets for one offense: one municipal citation and one University Judicial Affairs ticket. Before, DPS would issue a Judicial ticket and call EPD to issue the municipal citation, Tarvin said.

Other speakers at the City Council's public hearing argued the expanded power was a slippery slope that would eventually allow DPS officers to carry handguns.

But Hicks quickly rejected that argument, saying only peace officers, which have a legal definition, can carry firearms for law enforcement.

"I have to admit I don't where that's coming from," he said. "(Department of) Public Safety officers have law enforcement authority, but they are not considered peace officers."

Contact the managing editor at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

TASK FORCE

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West University Neighborhood, Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly said. He added that the Task Force reviewed a model housing program in Corvallis, and that many of that program's features seemed applicable to Eugene.


Kelly said the city is also interested in resurrecting the West University Neighborhood Association, a group that has been inactive for many years. The Task Force suggested that the neighborhood association could become a positive influence in the area.

"There has been a lot of interest in reviving the neighborhood association and we hope to have business owners, landlords, permanent residents and students involved with the organization," Kelly said.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at shoikeda@dailyemerald.com.

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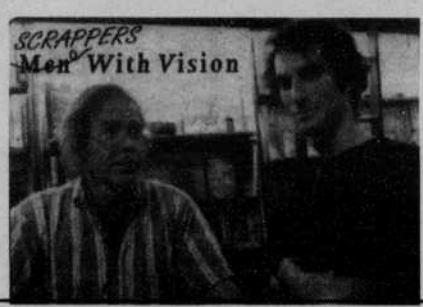
- Flooded streets and ditches
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- Garage Sales
682-8336
- Garbage, neighbor complaints
682-5819
- Graffiti reporting
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- Grass cutting & noxious weeds
682-4800
- Homeless issues/camping complaints
682-5121
- Legal aid
342-6056
- Neighborhood watch
682-8186
- Neighborhood services
682-5009
- Noise complaints
682-5121
- Parks — rules, rentals, usage
682-4800
- Parking enforcement
682-5729
- Parking permits (residential)
343-3733
- Police — non-emergency
682-5121
- Public service officer (city)
682-8478
- Solid waste and recycling
682-6830
- Speeding and traffic complaints
682-5157
- Stormwater — flooded streets, ditches; Street lights, street repair; street signs — missing, repair; Sidewalk hazards
682-4800
- Street use permits (block party)
682-4800
- Tree planting — NeighborWoods
682-4800
- Utilities locate (48 hrs. prior to digging)
1-800-332-2344
- West University Neighborhood Association
682-5009
- West University police sub-station
682-5642
- Zoning questions
682-5377
- Zoning Violations
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SOURCE: City of Eugene Neighborhood Services


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