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News Release

For Immediate Release

Council Committee to Look at Pseudoephedrine Issue Nov. 9



City Hall has been notified that citizens are receiving phone calls with confusing information about an issue being considered by a City Council committee. During the calls, which are coming from an out-of-state call center, citizens are being coached what to say to City Council members, and are being transferred directly to them.

Here are the facts:

Springfield City Council Zone 1 Councilman Jeff Seifried asked fellow Council members to consider looking at an ordinance adopted in several communities, and most recently in Branson, that imposes restrictions on the sale of certain medications containing pseudoephedrine — an essential ingredient in making methamphetamine.

The Branson ordinance applies only to medication with pseudoephedrine in the tablet form, not the liquid or gel cap form.

City Council decided in a meeting Sept. 24 to refer consideration of the issue a Council committee, the Community Involvement Committee. A meeting has been set for **noon, Nov. 9, in the 4th floor conference room of the Busch Municipal Building**. The meeting is a public meeting, but not a public hearing. The public may not have the opportunity to speak. The committee could decide to come forward with a recommended bill for the full City Council to vote on, or choose to not address the issue.

If a bill comes forward, the public then would have the chance to speak at a public hearing prior to any Council decision.

Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams supports efforts mandating prescriptions to purchase tablets containing pseudoephedrine because he believes it would curb local meth production. Last year, in Springfield alone, police recovered 108 meth labs. This year, that number sits at 58 to date.

The next Community Involvement Committee meeting has not been scheduled at this time. Members of the Community Involvement Committee include: Cindy Rushefsky, chair and Zone 2 Councilwoman; Jan Fisk, General Councilwoman A; John Rush, General Councilman B and Thomas Bieker, General Councilman D.

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