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To: [City Council](#)
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- [Search Continues for Water Division Employee](#)
 - [Destination Iowa Update](#)
 - [Nuisance Property Update](#)
 - [Police Department Academy Update](#)
 - [Fireworks Update](#)
 - [Sustainable Transportation & Economy Conference](#)
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Search Continues for Water Division Employee

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department continues to search the Cedar River for missing City employee, Erik Spaw. Periodic visual searches from the shore and on-the-water efforts continue. Staff will continue to provide updates.

Destination Iowa Update

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) contacted staff concerning the City's Destination Iowa application, submitted 5/9. IEDA suggested retooling the project with a lower request amount. We also learned that funds spent on flood control, road projects and housing developments (i.e. Watts Group) could not be counted toward matching funds. In light of these new parameters, staff are reimagining the project and expect the new request to fall between \$8–10M. We will update Council on a revised project as it is developed.

Nuisance Property Update

A property located at 1748 C Avenue NE was the subject of recent news stories. City staff attended a recent Neighborhood Association meeting where members of the community expressed frustrations with the property. Below is an update from City staff on their efforts related to this property:

- **11/4/21:** The property had a Founded Call for Service for Nuisance Activity for a violation of 22A.03.b.4 — Serious or Aggravated Misdemeanor Theft, as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 714.
- **12/15/21:** A hearing was held on an appeal of the Founded Call for Service for Nuisance Activity. The hearing officer determined the City of Cedar Rapids was correct in determining the 11/4 Call for Service was a Founded Call for Service in accordance with Chapter 22A.
- **3/11/22:** Following continued activity and police calls for service around the 1700/1800 Block of C Avenue NE, and neighborhood complaints regarding the property, Lt. Robinson and SAFE-CR met in person with the property manager to discuss ongoing concerns at the status of the property.
- **5/19/22:** A call for service to the property resulted in a Founded Call for Service for Nuisance Activity. During the call for service, police officers confirmed that individuals living in the home allowed associates who are involved with street gang activity to gather inside and near

the residence. The call for service was a result of focused police work and partnerships fostered between neighbors and police officers. Officers arrested the subjects most directly associated with shots fired events in the area.

- **5/20/22:** A Notice of Violation was sent for violation of 22A.03.a.13 — Possessing or Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, as defined in Iowa Code Section 724.

The property owner has 10 business days to receive the Notice of Violation per Chapter 22A. The Nuisance Property designation will begin on 6/6. The owner has a 15-day grace period, where they have the option to submit a Nuisance Property Abatement Plan. If the owner submits a Nuisance Property Abatement Plan, the grace period is extended an additional 15 days (30 days total). After the grace period has ended, a property owner may be subject to fees for Nuisance Activity, outlined in Chapter 22A.

Police Department Academy Update

The Cedar Rapids Police Department expects to add 10 new recruits (possibly 11) to their roster on 5/31. The recruits will be sworn-in at Council Chambers on 6/1 and begin Academy training on 6/6. These recruits will be joined by recruits from several other cities for the 19-week course. Dubuque PD is sending 5 recruits for training; Muscatine, 2; Cedar Falls, 1; and the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, 1. The Fire Department trainee attends the Academy as part of the Fire Investigator training program. A Fire Investigator is authorized to make arrests and carry a firearm as part of their duties and therefore receives Law Enforcement training.

Fireworks Update

In accordance with recently updated State code, firework sales must be permitted within Cedar Rapids City limits starting 6/1. However, the use of fireworks within Cedar Rapids city limits remains prohibited. (Sparklers, snakes and caps are allowed to be used within City limits.) City Fire Marshal Vance McKinnon and Marshal staff manage the permitting process authorizing vendors to sell fireworks and are working now to start authorizing those sites.

As of 5/26, five vendors have received approval from the Fire Marshal to establish fireworks points-of-sale within city limits. Some of these vendors have intentions to sell at multiple locations. We expect more applications as we approach the start of the selling season in June. Noise, fires, personal injury and inappropriate usage are all common complaints. Officers are encouraged to take a zero-tolerance stance when it comes to enforcement and use Code Section 63.10B for citations where evidence of offense is clear.

The City is asking residents to consider their neighbors, veterans, pets and City code when reminding residents to not discharge fireworks. To report illegal use of fireworks, residents can contact the Cedar Rapids Police Department at (319) 286-5491. The essential message this year boils down to: “Fireworks may be legally sold — **but may NOT be used** — in Cedar Rapids.”

Sustainable Transportation & Economy Conference

The City's first-ever Sustainable Transportation & Economy Conference was held 5/24–5/25 at the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library, co-hosted with Alliant Energy and the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. The event — which focused on decarbonizing transportation, pursuing business sustainability, and prioritizing equity and inclusion — brought many people together from different businesses, communities, and organizations. Mayor O'Donnell and I gave opening welcome remarks on the event's second day. We are proud of the many productive conversations had toward creating a more sustainable community.