



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0797, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to request a series of public safety measures designed to proactively address this public safety concern:

1. Request City Attorney to draft an ordinance requiring the following:

All hotel and lodging employers, to include motels, shall provide an emergency contact device, often referred to as a panic button to each hotel employee assigned to work in a guest room or other space without other hotel employees present, regardless of job classification, at no cost to the hotel employee. A hotel employee may use the emergency contact device if the hotel employee reasonably believes there is an ongoing crime, threatening behavior, unwanted physical or verbal contact, or other emergency in the employee's presence. The hotel or lodging employee may cease work and leave the immediate area of danger to await the arrival of assistance. The hotel or lodging must allow guest room doors to be left open during cleaning.

The hotel or lodging must also allow any employee reporting abusive or concerning behavior to be reassigned to a different area, away from the individual who allegedly engaged in abusive or concerning behavior. Additionally, the hotel or lodging must allow adequate paid time off to contact the police, and the hotel or lodging must cooperate with any investigation into the incident conducted by law enforcement.

2. Direct Police Department to establish regular outreach to hotel and lodging workers making them aware of their rights, and the process to address incidents of assault.
3. Direct Police Department to create more prominent information on their website on sexual assault and to ensure that the Language Access Policy is followed in regards to the dissemination of this information.
4. Establish a policy of having a female police officer on duty to take

calls reporting sexual assault.

The City Council has received a significant amount of testimony over the past year from hotel workers who are assigned to work in guest rooms. This has been an issue discussed by the Public Safety Committee as well. The testimony has been primarily focused on their public safety concerns. Given the depth and scope of the testimony provided by these individuals it is evident that public safety concerns are imminent in nature and the City Council should take proactive action to ensure that all hotels and lodgings are providing additional public safety protections to employees who are required to work alone in guest rooms, restrooms or other locations where they may be vulnerable to unprovoked or wanted contact. When there is already such a perceived sense by employees that protections like these would improve their safety, this is an issue that the City can begin proactively addressing.

The fiscal impact has not yet been determined.

Approve recommendation.

COUNCILWOMAN SUZIE PRICE,
THIRD DISTRICT

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