



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Niel Laudati 541.726.3780**

**Cell: 541.221.3686**

### **~ Media Advisory ~**

## **PLANNING COMMISSION SEEKS APPLICANT FOR VACANCY**

The City of Springfield is accepting applications for a position on its seven-member Planning Commission; the filing deadline is **5 p.m., Friday, September 4, 2009**. Commissioners are all volunteer at-large positions with no ward restrictions. The term of a Planning Commission appointment is four years.

The next meeting will be held on **July 21, 2009**. Work session begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Jesse Maine Room adjoining the Council Chambers and Regular sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Applications are available in the City Manager's Office in City Hall, Fifth and A Streets, during regular business hours.

City Council Interviews will be held **September 21, 2009** during the Work Session and Appointment to the Planning Commission will take place **September 21, 2009** during the City Council Regular Session.

For additional information, contact: **Springfield Planning Manager Greg Mott at 726-3774**.

### **Background:**

The Planning Commission is a quasi-judicial decision-making body appointed by the City Council that has authority over zone changes, variances, appeals and discretionary use requests. The Commission also makes recommendations to the City Council about the City's future growth and development. The commission works with city staff in drafting amendments to the Metropolitan Area General Plan, local land-use refinement plans and development regulations. The Planning Commission also serves as the City's Committee for Citizen Involvement and reviews and approves the formation of Planning Advisory Committees and Citizen Involvement Programs.

The Planning Commission meets twice per month. At a minimum, this means about six hours of meetings monthly with 3-6 hours of preparation time for each meeting. Each commissioner is also

expected to attend Council meetings on a rotating basis, and to participate on special committees as needed. The total monthly commitment may exceed 12 hours.

The City provides training for new Planning Commissioners to help them learn their role and responsibilities as appointed officials. Commissioners may attend training sessions on meeting protocol, conflict of interest, legal issues and decision-making. The Planning Division serves as the primary staff to the Commission by providing reports, meeting packets, training opportunities, meeting minutes and information requested by the Commission.

Regular meetings are held in the evening on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Commissioners are required to attend these meetings and are expected to have reviewed the agenda material in preparation for performing their duties.