
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: COUNCILMAN FAIRBANKS
SUBJECT: CITIZEN CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAM
DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2015
CC:

PROPOSAL:

I propose the creation of a Citizen Civic Education program similar to the South Jordan University program in South Jordan.

Residents often see the benefits of City government through the provision of municipal services such as police and fire, safe streets, trash collection, parks and recreation programs, etc., but perhaps lack an understanding of how these services are provided. The goal of the Citizen Civic Education Program would be to expose interested residents to the “inside” operation of City government—what it takes to provide these services in a consistent, affordable and high quality manner.

I suggest that the program be no longer than six to eight weeks long, with a predetermined number of participants meeting once per week in the evening. Topics covered might include:

- History of Sandy City & our form of government
- Roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council
- Budget and Finance
- Community Development (Planning/Zoning/Building/Code Enforcement)
- Public Safety (Police and Fire)
- Public Works, Public Utilities, Parks and Recreation

The Citizen Civic Education would provide a very broad overview of departments, and would not displace the Citizen Academies currently offered by the Police and Fire Departments which provide detailed instruction on each function. I believe much of the material needed for the program already exists in the form of the budget and operations information departments have provided the City Council in recent Work Sessions.

I welcome your thoughts on such an endeavor, and request your support for the development of the program.