

Click or tap here to enter text. **TO:** Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilor Micki Varney

SUBJECT:

Motion from Councilor Micki Varney concerning community and City Council input on future development of data centers in Salem.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Council adopt this motion.

MOTION:

I move City Council authorize a Task Force:

- A) Consisting of not more than nine (9) persons with a mix of council members, three (3) citizens-at-large, union representatives, and at least one representative from an organization that leads workforce development;
- B) Empowered to facilitate a minimum of three (3) town hall discussions about the subject of "data centers;"
- C) Empowered to evaluate available models at the national, state, and community level, and draft recommendations for a principle-driven approach to managing data center growth within the Salem region; and,
- D) Directed to report back to the Salem City Council no later than December, 31 2026, with a draft proposal for a rational, reasonable, and responsible policy for data center management.

DISCUSSION:

- Data centers are a unique form of development that can have significant long-term impacts on our community, including impacts to infrastructure, energy demand, water resources, transportation, and our environment. We don't yet know the full implications of data center development over the long-term.
- This type of development generates a high level of public interest.
- I believe that projects of this scale deserve a higher level of community conversation and Council involvement.

- This motion does not change City policy tonight, nor does it prohibit data centers at this moment.
- My goal is to ensure that Council, stakeholders and community members get to have this conversation before any future data center projects move forward.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes a task force composed of Councilors, stakeholders, and community members to draft a proposal for a policy regarding future data centers in the Salem region.

BACKGROUND:

This motion seeks to ensure that Council, stakeholders and community members get to have this conversation before any future data center projects move forward.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No immediate fiscal impact. Staff time will be used to provide administrative support to the Task Force meetings, research best practice for managing data center growth, support for Town Hall discussions, and preparation of a report to Council on these activities.

Attachments:

1. None.