

**City Council**  
Mayor Stephen Zollman  
Vice Mayor Jill McLewis  
Phill Carter  
Neysa Hinton  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sebastopol City Council Hosting Business Listening Session September 30**

**SEBASTOPOL, Calif., September 12, 2025** — The Sebastopol City Council is inviting local business owners to take part in a **Business Listening Session** on **Monday, September 30, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Sebastopol Cultural Community Center, 390 Morris Street.

The session is designed to give business owners a direct voice in shaping the City's new **Economic Gardening Program**, which focuses on supporting the growth and success of existing local businesses.

"We want to hear directly from the business community about their challenges, opportunities, and priorities. The feedback we receive will guide our economic development programs moving forward," stated Councilmember Phill Carter. "I am very appreciative of Councilmember Carter for bringing forth this idea. Hearing how we can better support our hard-working businesses is of utmost importance," added Mayor Stephen Zollman, who joined his fellow council members in supporting the idea.

**Key discussion topics include:**

- Challenges that may be slowing business growth
- Opportunities to strengthen Sebastopol's business climate
- How the City can better support local business success
- Ways to improve communication on permitting and policy information

**The Business Listening Session attendees will find:**

- **Direct access to decision-makers** – Speak face-to-face with City Council members and staff.
- **Networking with fellow business owners** – Build connections with other local entrepreneurs.
- **Influence on future City programs** – Shape upcoming business support initiatives.
- **An opportunity to be heard** – Share input on policies that impact your bottom line.

**Event Details:**

**Date/Time** Monday, September 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sebastopol Cultural Community Center, 390 Morris Street

**Light refreshments provided**

**RSVP here:** [bit.ly/SebEG](https://bit.ly/SebEG)

Business owners who cannot attend in person are encouraged to share their input by emailing [vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov).