



Desert Hot Springs
Local Public Safety Service Measures
Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What are the Public Safety Measures on the November 7, 2017 Ballot?

A: On July 5, 2017, the Desert Hot Springs City Council unanimously voted to place the “Desert Hot Springs’ 911, Gang/Drug Crime Prevention Extension Measure” (*Measure B - Parcel Tax*) and the “Desert Hot Springs’ Neighborhood Police Protection and Public Safety Extension Measure” (*Measure C - Utility User Tax*) on the November 7, 2017 ballot to maintain and protect public safety services.

If extended, the “911 Gang/Drug Crime Prevention Measure” (*Measure B – Parcel Tax*) would extend existing, voter-approved funding for public safety services and prevent cuts in emergency response times, anti-gang/anti-drug enforcement operations, youth violence prevention efforts, and sex offender/parolee monitoring programs by increasing certain vacant property tax rates, while reducing the tax rate for single family residences.

If extended, the “Desert Hot Springs’ Neighborhood Police Protection and Public Safety Measure” (*Measure C - Utility User Tax*) would extend existing, voter-approved local funding, with no increase in tax rates, to maintain and protect public safety services such as; police training, crime prevention and investigation, rapid emergency response times, and the recruitment and retention of experienced Police Officers to patrol neighborhood streets – with no increases in tax rates.

Q: Why were the Public Safety Measures placed on the November 7, 2017 Ballot?

A: The Desert Hot Springs local Public Safety Measures were placed on the November 7, 2017, ballot after months of gathering community feedback which set forth the priorities for Public Safety in the City. Dozens of community-based meetings were held. Further, the City obtained input from nearly 1,000 residents who set forth their public safety priorities. If passed, the Measures will provide the funding to maintain and prevent cuts to vital public safety services by extending existing funding for:

- Investigating and preventing crime
- Maintaining rapid police response times

- Recruiting and retaining experienced police officers
- Increasing drug house investigations in our neighborhoods
- Maintaining anti-gang and anti-drug programs

Q: How do the Measures impact local Public Safety Services?

A: Existing, voter-approved local funding provides \$5 million annually for essential public safety services, including police officers and emergency dispatch operators, anti-gang enforcement operations, graffiti removal, animal control, and building safety and code enforcement services. By law, all funds must be used exclusively for public safety services in Desert Hot Springs.

Additionally, every police officer in the City has taken a 22% pay cut while protecting our community, and reducing the violent crime rate 18% over the past year. Without this existing funding, it will be more difficult to recruit and retain experienced officers.

Q: How can we be sure the Measures will be spent properly on local public safety services?

A: The Measures continue to require strict accountability including independent annual financial audits. Every penny generated by these Measures is legally required to stay in Desert Hot Springs. Fiscal safeguards will ensure funds are used efficiently, effectively and as promised to voters.

Q: When is the election?

A: November 7, 2017. For more election and online voter registration information, visit the Desert Hot Springs City Clerk's page at www.cityofdhs.org/Elections or call (760) 329-6411.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For more information about Desert Hot Springs Public Safety Measures visit http://www.cityofdhs.org/Public_Safety_Conversation. If you have specific questions, or would like to request a presentation for a community organization, please contact *Doria Wilms, Management Analyst to the City Manager/Public Information Officer* via phone at (760) 329-6411 ext. 260 or via email at dwilms@cityofdhs.org