City of Desert Hot Springs

Information About Public Safety Measures on the November Ballot

Summer/Fall 2017

Background

➤ For months, the City of Desert Hot Springs and the Desert Hot Springs Police Department (DHSPD) have been soliciting community feedback about priorities for maintaining and preventing cuts to public safety services.

➤ DHSPD and the City have implemented significant outreach programs in our neighborhoods, to the business community and online:
  - ➤ Received input on public safety priorities from nearly 1,000 residents
  - ➤ Over 30 community-based meetings held

➤ To address community priorities, the Desert Hot Springs City Council unanimously placed two public safety measures to extend existing, voter-approved local funding for public safety services in Desert Hot Springs.
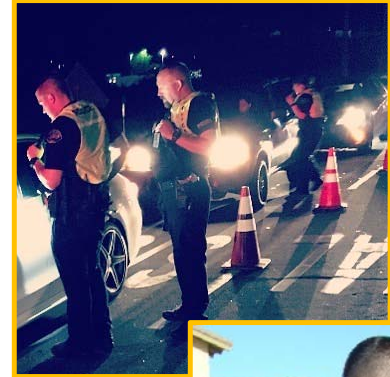
What Are the Public Safety Measures on the Ballot?

Measure "C"

➢ The "Desert Hot Springs' Neighborhood Police Protection and Public Safety Measure", if renewed, would extend existing, voter-approved local funding – <u>without raising tax rates</u> – to maintain and protect public safety services including:

   ➢ Police training, recruitment and retention

   ➢ Crime prevention and investigation

   ➢ Rapid emergency response times

   ➢ Hire police officers to patrol neighborhood streets

What Are the Public Safety Measures on the Ballot?

Measure "B"

➢The "Desert Hot Springs' 911 Gang/Drug Crime Prevention Measure", if renewed, would extend existing voter-approved funding to maintain and prevent cuts to public safety services – <u>while reducing the rate for single family residences</u> – including:

  ➢ Emergency response times

  ➢Anti-gang/anti-drug enforcement operations

  ➢Youth violence prevention efforts

  ➢Sex offender and parolee monitoring programs

How do the Measures Impact Local Public Safety Services?

➤ 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
  ➤ Building safety and code enforcement

➤ By law, all funds have been specifically used only for public safety in Desert Hot Springs.

Did You Know?

➤ Every DHS Police Officer has taken a 22% pay cut while protecting our community and reducing the violent crime rate 18% in the past year.

➤ Without existing, voter-approved local funding, it will be more difficult to retain and recruit experienced officers.

Fiscal Accountability

➤ The Measures continue to require strict accountability including independent annual financial audits.

➤ Every penny of revenue from 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.

When is the Election?

➤ The Desert Hot Springs Local Public Safety Measures are on the November 7 ballot.

➤ For more election and online voter registration information, visit the City Clerk's page at www.cityofdhs.org/Elections or call (760) 329-6411

Getting More Information

➤ For more information about Desert Hot Springs Public Safety Measures visit http://www.cityofdhs.org/Public_Safety_Conversation

➤ If you have specific questions regarding these measures 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*

   ✓ Do you belong to a neighborhood watch group, homeowner or business association, local PTA or other civic or community organization? Let us know and schedule a community presentation by emailing: *Nicole Sanchez, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police* at *nsanchez@dhspd.com* TODAY.

   ✓ Help set up a neighborhood coffee with your neighbors, the City and DHSPD to discuss these issues by emailing *Nicole Sanchez, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police* at *nsanchez@dhspd.com*