

# Oversight Committee Information

# Overview

- On November 6, 2018, voters within the City of Bakersfield passed the Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Measure.
- The Measure is a locally controlled one-cent sales tax measure that will provide approximately \$58 million annually to the City of Bakersfield to address top Community priorities.
- The Measure increases the sales tax rate from 7.25 to 8.25 percent within the incorporated city limits of Bakersfield.
- The City will receive 2 percent of the 8.25 percent rate.

# Overview

In response to feedback received during over 30 community meetings and survey of nearly 1,000 residents, the 13 priorities included in the Measure documents are:

1. Increasing police staffing to improve police response times, reduce crime, and increase neighborhood police patrols
2. Improving rapid response to assaults and robberies
3. Maintaining/improving road response to gang violence
4. Investigating and proactively preventing property crimes, burglaries and vehicle thefts
5. Keeping public areas safe and clean
6. Strengthening the capacity of the Special Enforcement Unit
7. Expanding the School Resource Officer Program
8. Maintaining a fully staffed and equipped Class II rated Fire Department
9. Reducing homelessness through partnerships with service providers to increase outreach sheltering and construction of alternative housing
10. Addressing the fiscal stability of the City of Bakersfield
11. Creating jobs through economic development, business retention attraction and workforce development
12. Enhancing amenities throughout the community to improve the quality of life and attract visitors
13. Enhancing neighborhoods through additional code enforcement and improved park maintenance

# Overview

## **Effective Date and Sunset**

Pursuant to state law, the Measure will become effective for retailers engaged in business within the incorporated city limits of Bakersfield starting April 1, 2019. Revenues associated with the Measure are not anticipated to start being received by the City until June 2019. There is no sunset term contained within the Measure.

## **Oversight and Transparency Requirements**

In keeping with the City's fiscally-conservative, award-winning budget approach, the Measure requires:

- Establishing of a nine member citizens' oversight committee
- Publishing of an annual report
- Annual financial audits
- Distinct accounting procedures to track the expenditures of Measure revenues

These requirements ensures the proceeds of any revenue generated by Measure are expended in manner consistent with the priorities of the community.

# Overview

## **Term and Compensation**

- Each Committee member serves a three year term, expiring on February 6, 2022.
- All Committee members must reside within the City of Bakersfield for the duration of their term.
- The city council may remove any Committee member for any reason by a simple majority vote.
- There is no monetary compensation for serving on the Committee.

# Overview

## **Primary Duties of the Committee**

- Provide independent verification that the revenues collected pursuant to the Measure are expended in such a manner that is consistent with the priorities described within the Measure.
- The City shall produce an annual report to demonstrate how the funds subject to the Measure are being expended. The report shall provide a comprehensive review of the funds received, budgeted and expended in relation to the tax that is subject to the Measure. The report shall be provided to the Committee for review upon completion.
- The City shall ensure that annual independent audits are conducted to account for the tax revenues received and expenditure made in relation to the tax that is subject to this ordinance, and to ensure consistency with spending priorities. Such audits will be provided to the Committee for review upon completion.
- Hold public meetings, in compliance with the Brown Act and applicable conflict of interest rules, to receive public comments, review presentation from City staff and discuss spending priorities associated with the Measure.
- The Committee will be provided presentations by City staff in advance of the City annual budget process to allow for comprehensive review and comment.
- The committee may prepare recommendations on funding priorities for the Measure and present such recommendation to the City Council in advance of or during the City's annual budget process.

# Overview

## **Staff Contact**

- The City Manager's Office is designed as the coordinate for the Committee
- The City Manager's Office will coordinate meeting dates and times, prepare meeting agendas and coordinate with the various City departments on presentation that will be made to the Committee.
- Staff can be contacted at (661) 326-3751

# Overview

## **Meeting Information**

- The Committee is anticipated to meet at least four times per year in advance and after adoption of the City's budget by the City Council, as well as after the fiscal year concludes.
- The following is tentative timeline based on the City's budget deadline for FY 2019-20. Specific dates and times will be finalized based on availability of the Committee members.

## **February 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Orientation and overview

## **Week of March 4, 2019**

- Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Proposed Budget Overview

## **Week of March 11, 2019**

- Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Proposed Department Budget Proposals

## **Week of March 18, 2019**

- Reserved for outstanding questions or staff responses

# Overview

## Additional Information

- **Conflict of Interest Documents:** Required to be completed and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than March 8, 2019. For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (661) 326-3767.
- **Resolution No. 089-18:** City Council placement of the Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Measure on the ballot, including the 13 community priorities – **Included in your packet**
- **Resolution No. 009-19:** Establishment of the Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Measure Citizens Oversight Committee - **Included in your packet**