Public Safety and Vital Services Measure Update
July 2019

Measure Status Report: On November 6, 2018, Bakersfield Citizens voted to approve the Public Safety and Vital Services 1% Tax Measure. This report provides a snapshot of progress made on the implementation of that measure.

Police Training Facility

Private contractors and City crews are hard at work rehabilitating the existing building at 4646 California Avenue and creating a modern police academy and training center. The facility will play a key part in the City’s goal of hiring 100 new police officers over the next three years. By operating its own facility, the Bakersfield Police Department will be able to put more officers on the street to respond more quickly to calls for service from the public. The facility will also reduce travel and training costs for the department, as many required training classes can be held at the new facility.

Construction will be complete by August 2019, when the first police academy to use the facility will begin. Without funding from the Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Measure, this project would not be possible.

BY THE NUMBERS:

100

Goal for the number of additional sworn police officers by 2022.

85%

How much work has already been completed on the new police training facility at 4646 California Ave. Without a dedicated training facility, our hiring goals for PD could not be met.

August 1

Target date for the beginning of the first training academy held at our new facility.
Rapid Response Teams

The City is busy hiring staff and outfitting equipment for the new Homeless Rapid Response Team. What is the Homeless Rapid Response Team? It’s an innovative, 7-day per week team that will work to address complaints related to homelessness and associated trash, debris and encampments.

The team will take a proactive approach to addressing community complaints including: encampments; vacant but occupied structures; and providing outreach to businesses throughout the City on homeless-related issues. The team will also connect homeless individuals with shelter facilities and service providers. The Homeless Rapid Response Team will respond directly to service requests submitted through Bakersfield Mobile, the City’s official smartphone application! The app can be downloaded for free from most app stores.

Insuring the Investment Made by Taxpayers

The establishment of a reserve plan helps protect the City from unanticipated situations such as natural disasters and allows the City to temporarily buffer against cuts to staffing levels, programs, or services in response to economic downturns. The City Council has placed $16.3 million of Bakersfield Public Safety and Vital Services Measure revenues into reserves for these purposes. Even with this new allocation, the City is still below national...
Insuring the Investment Made by Taxpayers Cont.

standards for reserve levels. However, the City Council recently passed a resolution that establishes a plan to bring reserve levels to the national standards by the 2024/2025 fiscal year! This plan helps to protect the investment that is being made by taxpayers into new programs and services, such as hiring 100 new police officers and increasing homelessness programs.

Coming Next Issue...
- Police Department Firing Range Project Update
- City Parks Rapid Response Team Overview
- Police Academy Progress