

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upon the advice of an independent citizen's Ad Hoc advisory committee, the current City Council unanimously proposed a public safety tax, Measure E, as the best possible means to continue a high level of police and fire services during our national economic downturn. Measure E was also designed to partially resolve a related and on-going problem with financing our fire services at the unfunded level established by a prior City Council during 2006.

Yesterday, our citizens voted against Measure E and therefore against continuation of the historically high level of services provided by our public safety departments. Over the past three years the City has instituted a 30% reduction in the cost of city services with the notable exception of public safety. The Council realizes that the defeat of Measure E is a mandate of the voters to now also reduce the cost of public safety services.

The City Council accepts the mandate and is committed to provide adequate levels of service associated with a sound local government. The Council is also committed to maximize the level of public safety commensurate with available funding. Therefore, the City will expand its current efforts to negotiate reduced cost of existing public safety services, seek alternative solutions from the Ad Hoc committee, and continue to consider consolidation of public safety services with our neighboring cities.

We urge our citizens to recognize that now is a time to work together to solve the short term economic difficulties facing our city, our state, and our country.