

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Radphord-Leon Howard
6129 Deer Street
West Richland, Washington 99353

June 26, 2014

Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance
State of Washington Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way Room 206
Post Office Box 40908
Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov

**Re: BENTON COUNTY, CITY OF KENNEWICK, CITY OF WEST RICHLAND AND
CITY OF RICHLAND OFFICIALS, et. al. – VIOLATION OF RCW 42.17A.555**

Dear Mr. Stutzman:

Submitted herewith is a complaint concerning the violation of RCW 42.17A.555. As you are aware, RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public office or agency facilities in political campaigns.

The political campaign at issue is the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" scheduled for the August 5, 2014 Primary Election.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please keep me apprised of your progress and final determination in this important community matter.

RESPONDENTS

Al Wehner – Respondent Wehner is a Police Captain with the City of Richland. Respondent Wehner is permanently assigned a City of Richland undercover police vehicle for all his automotive travel. Respondent Wehner was assigned by the City of Richland as being responsible for obtaining the approval of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" for that public entity. The City of Richland will receive an additional \$1.2 million annually if the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**). Respondent Wehner's address is 871 George Washington Way Richland, Washington 99352 and phone number is (509) 942-7360. Although Respondent Wehner retired as of May 1, 2014, actions detailed herein predate said retirement.

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Ken Hohenberg - Respondent Hohenberg is the Police Chief for the City of Kennewick. Respondent Hohenberg is permanently assigned a City of Kennewick undercover police vehicle for all his automotive travel. Respondent Hohenberg was assigned by the City of Kennewick as being responsible for obtaining the approval of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" for that public entity. The City of Kennewick will receive an additional \$1.9 million annually if the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**). Respondent Hohenberg's address is 211 W 6th Ave, P.O. Box 6108 Kennewick, Washington 99336 and phone number is (509) 585-4208.

Andy Miller, WSBA No. 10817 - Respondent Miller is the elected Benton County Prosecutor. Respondent Miller is either permanently assigned a Benton County vehicle or auto allowance for all automotive travel. Respondent Miller is responsible for obtaining the approval of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" for his department. The Benton County Prosecutor will receive an additional \$264,289 annually if the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**). Respondent Miller's address is the Benton County Justice Center 7122 W Okanogan Place, Bldg A Kennewick, Washington 99336 and phone number is (509)735-3591.

Eric Hsu, WSBA No. 38517 - Respondent Hsu is the Public Defense Manager for the Benton & Franklin Counties Office of Public Defense. \$215,330. The Benton County Public Defense Office will receive an additional \$215,330 annually if the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**). Respondent Hsu's address is the Benton County Justice Center 7122 W Okanogan Place, Bldg A Kennewick, Washington 99336 and phone number is (509)222-3700

Josie Delvin - Respondent Josie Delvin is the elected Benton County Clerk. Respondent Josie Delvin is either permanently assigned a Benton County vehicle or auto allowance for all automotive travel. Respondent Josie Delvin is responsible for obtaining the approval of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" for her department. The Benton County Clerk will receive an additional \$117,746 annually if the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**). Respondent Josie Delvin is the spouse of Respondent Jerome Delvin. Respondent Josie Delvin's address is the Benton County Justice Center 7122 W Okanogan Place Bldg-A Kennewick, Washington 99336-7665 and phone number is (509) 735-8388.

Jerome Delvin - Respondent Jerome Delvin is an elected Benton County Commissioner. Respondent Jerome Delvin is either permanently assigned a Benton County vehicle or auto allowance for all automotive travel. Respondent Jerome Delvin is responsible for taking the decision to place the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" on the ballot. Benton County will receive an additional \$5.55 million annually if

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the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**).

Respondent Jerome Delvin's phone number is that provided as the Treasurer's phone number on the PDC Political Committee Registration Form C1PC (see EXHIBITS 2 and 3).

Respondent Jerome Delvin's post office box (P.O. Box 303 Richland Washington 99352) from his stint in the Washington State Senate is listed as on the C1PC as the Committee's address (see **EXHIBIT 4**). It is unknown if expenses related to the subject phone number or post office box were reimbursed by the state of Washington as a part of Respondent Jerome Delvin's extraordinary reimbursement expenses (see **EXHIBIT 5 and 6**). It is unknown if Respondent Jerome Delvin's post office box or cell phone were subject to reimbursement by Benton County.

Respondent Jerome Delvin is the spouse of Respondent Josie Delvin. Respondent Jerome Delvin's address is the Benton County Courthouse 620 Market Street Prosser, Washington 99350 and phone number is (509) 786-5600.

Chris Skinner - Respondent Skinner is the Police Chief for the City of Richland. Respondent Skinner is permanently assigned a City of Richland undercover police vehicle for all his automotive travel. After the retirement of Respondent Wehner, Respondent Skinner was assigned by the City of Richland as being responsible for obtaining the approval of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” for that public entity. The City of Richland will receive an additional \$1.2 million annually if the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” is approved (see **EXHIBIT 1**). Respondent Skinner's address is 871 George Washington Way Richland, Washington 99352 and phone number is (509) 942-7360.

City of West Richland – The City of West Richland is a municipal corporation located at 3801 West Van Giesen, West Richland, Washington 99353 and has a phone number of (509) 967-3431.

City of Richland - The City of Richland is a municipal corporation located at 505 Swift Boulevard, Richland, Washington 99352 and has a phone number of (509) 942-7390.

City of Kennewick - The City of Kennewick is a municipal corporation located at 210 W. 6th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington 99336 and has a phone number of (509)-585-4200.

Paul Warden – Respondent Warden is the Mayor of the City of Prosser and a Committee Member for Citizens for Safe Communities. Respondent Warden's address is 1401 S. Kinney Way, Prosser, Washington 99350 and maintains a phone number of (509) 786-2332.

Ana Armijo – Respondent Armijo is employed as by Benton County as a Superior Court Interpreter/Translator and a Committee Member for Citizens for Safe Communities. Respondent Armijo's address is the Benton County Justice Center 7122 W Okanogan Place, Bldg A Kennewick, Washington 99336 and phone number is (509)735-3591.

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Kris Watkins – Respondent Watkins is President & CEO of the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau. Ms. Watkins salary, benefits and the resources of the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau come entirely from public taxpayer funds. Respondent Watkins' address is 7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Suite B, Kennewick, Washington 99336 and phone is (509) 735-8486.

Additional Respondents – Productions related to Public Records Requests filed with respective agencies to benefit from the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” may result in additional respondents.

In order to avoid further misappropriation of public resources and facilities, the Public Disclosure Commission must ensure that all Respondents, not be permitted to utilize public resources from their or any other respective public agency in responding to this review.

STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACTS

On February 11, 2014, Respondents Wehner, Hohenberg, Miller, Josie Delvin, and Jerome Delvin filed a PDC Political Committee Registration Form C1PC with the Public Disclosure Commission for the purposes of establishing a political fund raising committee to support the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” (see **EXHIBIT 3**). The committee is named “Citizens for Safe Communities”.

On February 25, 2014, the Tri-City Herald ran a story featuring Respondent Hohenberg in his official capacity as City of Kennewick Police Chief supporting the supposed benefits of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” (see **EXHIBIT 7**).

On March 4, 2014, the Benton County Commissioners unanimously approved the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” (see **EXHIBIT 8**). It should be noted that in that public meeting, Respondents Hohenberg and Jerome Delving indicate their formal support as public officials. **While not included in the minutes, during the meeting, Respondent Hohenberg, dressed in his police uniform, indicated that he was in the process of obtaining financial support for the political campaign, from donors including Bill Lampson of Lampson International, LLC and Bill McCurley of McCurley Integrity Dealerships.** Respondent Hohenberg made good on obtaining said contributions as noted in a March 24, 2014 Tri-City Herald Article confirming those and other catches (see **EXHIBIT 9 and 12**).

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On March 5, 2014, Respondents purchased the website domain <http://www.citizens4safecommunities.com/> (see **EXHIBIT 10**). The comprehensive 78 page website was published March 9, 2014, only five (5) days after the action of the Benton County Commissioners. **EXHIBIT 11** is a copy of Respondent's website.

On May 6, 2014, the Richland City Council received a presentation by the Citizens for Safe Communities in support of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" (**EXHIBITS 12 and 13**). Respondent Skinner leads the presentation in support of the ballot measure, and introduces Respondents Miller, Hohenberg and Wehner. All Respondents are introduced in their official paid public capacities, are wearing public provided uniforms, and were transported to the meeting using public provided vehicles or vehicles provided by auto allowance. Video available at <http://richlandwa.swagit.com/play/05062014-1207>.

During this presentation, Respondents Miller, Hohenberg and Wehner advised that they had made the same presentation to all cities in Benton County, including City of Kennewick, City of Prosser and City of West Richland. Respondent Wehner advised that Citizens for Safe Communities had received resolutions in support of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" from City of Kennewick and City Prosser, and were awaiting a similar resolution from the City of West Richland the week of May 12, 2014.

The opposition committee, Benton County Citizens For Efficient Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement and other opposition groups known to Respondents City of Kennewick, City of Richland, and City of West Richland, were not invited to make such a presentation, nor afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view.

On March 13, 2014, During a news conference called by local law enforcement officials with the use of public resources, on paid public time, in public facilities, in their respective public uniforms, transported by their assigned public vehicles, Benton County law enforcement officials officially announce their support for the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" (**EXHIBIT 14**). Public Officials supporting the campaign for the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure" include Benton County Sheriff Steve Keane (center); and from left to right, Prosser Police Chief David Giles; Richland Police Chief Chris Skinner; Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg; and West Richland Police Chief Brian McElroy.

Statement Of Material Facts Produced By Way Of Emails

Additional Material Facts shall be forthcoming based upon the documents produced by way of the aforementioned Requests for Public Information. Late into Complainant's investigation, production began on the aforementioned Request for Public Information. Only a partial production has been produced as of this compliant, and is provided herein by Exhibit.

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On September 18, 2013, Respondent Hsu, emails a document titled Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax A proposal on how to move forward to promote the 2014 Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax prepared by membership of the future The Citizens for Safe Communities. The document outlines a number of topics, including developing a political campaign to approve the measure, and is sent to a variety of public officials via their public email address and private individuals. **EXHIBIT 15.**

On February 18, 2014 4:53 PM, utilizing public resources, public email and public time, Respondent Hohenberg emails himself from his City of Kennewick email address to the same City of Kennewick email address, a document entitled "Information Sheet: Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax" on letter head from "The Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) which is the PDC registered Political Campaign Committee promoting the Benton County public safety sales tax. **EXHIBIT 16.**

On February 18, 2014 , from his personal email address (wehnerjr@clearwire.net), Respondent Wehner emails to Respondent Hohenberg to his personal email address (KPDKING1@gmail.com) a draft letter in support of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure". Upon receipt, Respondent Hohenberg forwards it to his City of Kennewick public email address. **EXHIBIT 17.**

On March 12, 2014, Respondent Wehner sends an email to the public email addresses of Benton County Sheriff Steven Keane as well as Respondents Miller, Josie Delvin Hohenberg and West Richland. The subject is Info Needed. **EXHIBIT 18.** The email is as follows:

(Respondents) Andy, Steve, and Josie,

The Citizens for Safe Communities (the PDC registered Political Campaign Committee promoting the Benton County public safety sales tax) is putting together a web site reference the public safety sales tax. I need from you an explanation for the needs your respective departments have that will be funded by the tax. Attached is an example for Kennewick and West Richland. Something similar from each of you would be great.

I will need the information by no later than Monday, March 17th. We hope to have the web site up and running by next week.

- County Clerk's Office: 2.0 FTE Deputy Clerks, IT and other support for Deputy Clerks. \$117,476
- Sheriff's Office: 7 sworn positions, 2 support staff, 2 jail booking staff, 4 corrections staff, inmate management system, radio maintenance. \$1,929,016.
- Prosecutor's Office: Additional felony Deputy Prosecutor, appellate Deputy Prosecutor, adult felony staff position. \$264,289.

Andy:

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Who could provide explanations for the following departments (and could you forward to them and ask them to reply back to me?):

- Superior Court: Superior Court Judge's position, 0.5 FTE court commissioner, adult drug court funding, SAP program, juvenile drug court, functional family therapy (juvenile). \$309,900. \$261,571 (juvenile).
- District Court: Judge pro tem, professional services, jury fees, print bindery, additional part-time and 1.0 FTE, IT equipment, Misc. \$159,300.
- Public Defense: Additional staff defender in superior court, additional contract defender in district court, 1.0 FTE legal assistant, 1.0 FTE office support, convert office manager to supervisory position. \$215,330.
- Gang & Crime Prevention and Intervention: Nurse Family Partnership program for Benton County residents (Health Department), partnership with Boys and Girls Club (after-school programs for gang prevention and youth empowerment) and other similar programs, partnership with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place for crime prevention and intervention services for homeless at-risk youth. \$303,487 (Nurse-family partnership), \$500,000 (partnership with Boys and Girls Club and other programs), \$50,000 (partnership with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place).
- Multi Departmental Mental Health Court & Diversion: District court judge & probation officer, prosecutor and public defender for mental health court, chemical dependency professional, peer support specialist, treatment cost support for participants (supplementing insurance where needed and providing access for uninsured participants), case management services (serving both mental health court and mental health diversion/triage). \$600,000.

Thanks.

Al Wehner

On March 17, 2014, without of utilizing the Public Records Request Process, Respondent Miller responds to public email addresses by way of his public email address to Respondents Wehner, Miller and Hsu; as well as Benton County's Jacki Lahtinen and Pat Austin the following response (**EXHIBIT 18**):

Please see the below email from Al Wehner.

I have already explained to Al that I was remiss in not forwarding the email to you and that you are only receiving it today

I'll go ahead and work on the mental health diversion/court section.

On March 13, 2014, Respondent Miller receives an email at his public email address from the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance with an endorsement and press release. The email indicates that the Franklin Community Health Alliance "Endorses Resolution for Criminal Justice Sales Tax Initiative" Respondent Miller forwards the email to Respondent Hohenberg at his public email address and to Respondent Wehner at his private email address. Respondent Hohenberg forwards the

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same email to Kennewick City Manager, utilizing public time and resources, with a note, “FYI This is great news. Ken” Respondent Hohenberg later forwards this email, using public resources and public time, to the Kennewick Police Department Administrative Team. **EXHIBIT 19.**

On March 19, 2014, Respondent Wehner sends an email to the public email address of Respondents Hohenberg, Skinner, West Richland, Prosser, Josie Delvin, Miller and Hsu, as well as Benton County Sheriff Keane and others. The subject is Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website (the PDC registered Political Campaign Committee) and importance is marked High. The email is as follows (**EXHIBIT 20**):

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An initial draft of the CSC website has been completed and is available for viewing at www.citizens4safecommunities.com . You are receiving this e-mail because you have provided, or been

asked to provide, information in the section “How the Public Safety Sales Tax will impact:”.

You can navigate through the website by selecting categories in the left column. We tried to make it as informative as possible for the viewing public.

Please contact me via e-mail response, or call me, if you have any questions or concerns. We will publicly announce the website at the CSC press conference on Monday. If you have not yet provided information for your respective section, please do so by no later than Friday.

I am asking the following people to review for accuracy (and to make sure you are satisfied with the content) these sections under “How the Public Safety Sales Tax will impact:”

Ken Hohenberg: “Kennewick Residents,” and “All Benton County Residents” – Metro Drug Task Force section.

Chris Skinner: “Richland Residents” section.

Brian McElroy: “West Richland Residents” section.

David Giles: “Prosser Residents” section.

Steve Keane: “All Benton County Residents” – Sheriff’s Office section and Reserve Fund section.

Josie Delvin: “All Benton County Residents” – County Clerk’s Office section.

Pat Austin: “All Benton County Residents” Superior Court section.

Jacki Lahtinen: “All Benton County Residents” – District Court section.

John Hansens: “All Benton County Residents” – Coroner’s Office section.

Andy Miller: “All Benton County Residents” –Prosecutor’s Office section, Gang & Crime Prevention

and Intervention section, and Mental Health Court & Diversion section.

Eric Hsu: “All Benton County Residents” – Public Defense section.

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A courtesy reply indicating whether you are okay, or not okay, with your respective section(s) will be appreciated.

Thanks.

Al Wehner

As of this writing, produced Request for Public Record emails show that utilizing public resources, public time and public emails, Respondent Wehner's email received responses to assist in the development of the PDC Registered Political Campaign website from Benton County's Jacki Lahtinen, Respondent Skinner, Respondent Prosser, Respondent West Richland, and Respondent Hohenberg,

On May 6, 2014m Respondent Wehner emails Respondent Hohenberg, to his public email account, a revised copy of the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs statement in support of the "Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure". **EXHIBIT 21.**

On May 18, 2014, Respondent Wehner emails to the public email addresses of Respondents Hohenberg, Skinner, West Richland, Prosser, and Benton County Sheriff Steven Keane an email with the subject line: Request for crime statistics over past 10 years ending with 2013. The email is as follows (**EXHIBIT 22**):

Sheriff and Chiefs,

Would you please provide me with your respective agency's crime statistics for Part I crimes over the past 10 years ending with 2013?

Thank you.

Al Wehner

Campaign Manager

Citizens for Safe Communities

www.citizens4safecommunities.com

On May 19, 2014, utilizing public time, resources and email, and without benefit of the Benton County Public Records Request system, Benton County Sheriff Keane responds:

Al,

Will do. When do you need them by?

Steve

As of this writing, produced Request for Public Record emails show that utilizing public resources, public time and public emails, Respondent Wehner's email received responses to assist in the development of the PDC Registered Political Campaign website from Benton County's Sheriff Steve Keane.

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LAW

RCW 42.17A.555 Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns — Prohibition — Exceptions, provides:

No elective official nor any employee of his or her office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency. However, this does not apply to the following activities:

(1) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body or by an elected board, council, or commission of a special purpose district including, but not limited to, fire districts, public hospital districts, library districts, park districts, port districts, public utility districts, school districts, sewer districts, and water districts, to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;

(2) A statement by an elected official in support of or in opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry;

(3) Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

(4) This section does not apply to any person who is a state officer or state employee as defined in RCW 42.52.010.

RCW 42.17A.001 Declaration of policy provides:

It is hereby declared by the sovereign people to be the public policy of the state of Washington:

(1) That political campaign and lobbying contributions and expenditures be fully disclosed to the public and that secrecy is to be avoided.

(2) That the people have the right to expect from their elected representatives at all levels of government the utmost of integrity, honesty, and fairness in their dealings.

(3) That the people shall be assured that the private financial dealings of their public officials, and of candidates for those offices, present no conflict of interest between the public

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trust and private interest.

(4) That our representative form of government is founded on a belief that those entrusted with the offices of government have nothing to fear from full public disclosure of their financial and business holdings, provided those officials deal honestly and fairly with the people.

(5) That public confidence in government at all levels is essential and must be promoted by all possible means.

(6) That public confidence in government at all levels can best be sustained by assuring the people of the impartiality and honesty of the officials in all public transactions and decisions.

(7) That the concept of attempting to increase financial participation of individual contributors in political campaigns is encouraged by the passage of the Revenue Act of 1971 by the Congress of the United States, and in consequence thereof, it is desirable to have implementing legislation at the state level.

(8) That the concepts of disclosure and limitation of election campaign financing are established by the passage of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 by the Congress of the United States, and in consequence thereof it is desirable to have implementing legislation at the state level.

(9) That small contributions by individual contributors are to be encouraged, and that not requiring the reporting of small contributions may tend to encourage such contributions.

(10) That the public's right to know of the financing of political campaigns and lobbying and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates far outweighs any right that these matters remain secret and private.

(11) That, mindful of the right of individuals to privacy and of the desirability of the efficient administration of government, full access to information concerning the conduct of government on every level must be assured as a fundamental and necessary precondition to the sound governance of a free society.

The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to promote complete disclosure of all information respecting the financing of political campaigns and lobbying, and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates, and full access to public records so as to assure continuing public confidence of fairness of elections and governmental processes, and so as to assure that the public interest will be fully protected. In promoting such complete disclosure, however, this chapter shall be enforced so as to insure that the information disclosed will not be misused for arbitrary and capricious purposes and to insure that all persons reporting under this chapter will be protected from harassment and unfounded allegations based on information they have freely disclosed.

CONCLUSION

Based on the revealing facts and documents provided herein, Respondents participated in significant and continuous violations of RCW 42.17A et. seq.

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Specific violations include, but are not limited to a significant use of public time, public office space, vehicles and other public facilities by Respondents, directly or indirectly, for:

- Assisting, managing, and funding the campaign to approve the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” well in advance of public knowledge or formal approval;
- Assisting the PDC Registered Political Campaign Committee, Citizens for Safe Communities, without benefit of Public Records Request by providing unlimited insider information utilizing public resources, while requiring the Opposition Committee to traverse a myriad of obstacles, exemptions and reduce simple requests in order to obtain information concerning the ballot measure.
- Serving as a paid public employees, utilizing public resources to promote the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”, while at the same time, or in advance of public knowledge or approval, establishing a political fund raising committee to support the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”;
- Using their formal capacities as public officials to promote and solicit campaign contributions for the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”;
- Using internal public or email systems to communicate campaign-related information;
- Using public resources, public time and public emails to request (without benefit of a Public Records Request), generate, obtain, critique and review, campaign materials for the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”.
- Arranging and attending speaking engagements in their public capacity in support of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”;
- Authorizing the preparation, organization and distribution of information for the purpose of influencing the outcome of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”;
- Making statements by an official in support of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” absent an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry;
- Failing to apply or communicate the difference between acceptable information activities and inappropriate promotional activities in support of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”;
- When attending functions to support the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”, Respondents wear public name tags (including name, agency and title), wear public uniforms, utilize public resources for transportation, and are reimbursed by their respective public agencies for expenses related to attendance, including meals and entry;

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- Utilizing information developed with public resources, obtained by way of their public employments and public resources to develop a comprehensive website promoting the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” without benefit of a public records request which is required of all other citizens to obtain such information.
- Receiving presentations in support of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” from Respondents' Political Campaign Committee Citizens for Safe Communities, while not inviting opposition committee members or others known to Respondents City of Richland, City of Kennewick and City of West Richland., affording them an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view.
- Inviting Respondents' Political Campaign Committee Citizens for Safe Communities to provide testimony at public hearings resulting in adoption of resolutions supporting the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”, while not inviting opposition committee members or others known to Respondents City of Richland, City of Kennewick and City of West Richland, affording them an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view.

Respondents clearly mentored, fostered and coerced a culture which employed any and all public resources to support the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”. This included all time prior and subsequent to their filing of the PDC Political Committee Registration Form C1PC with the Public Disclosure Commission for the purposes of establishing a political fund raising committee to support the a PDC Political Committee Registration Form C1PC with the Public Disclosure Commission for the purposes of establishing a political fund raising committee to support the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure”.

Moreover, it is clear that Respondents utilized their public offices to solicit and obtain campaign contributions for their “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” political fund raising committee.

It is unknown if Respondent Josie Delvin will utilize any of the resources of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” political fund raising committee in her campaign for election to Benton County Clerk scheduled for August 5, 2014 and November 4, 2014 General Election. It is unknown if Respondent Miller will utilize any of the resources of the “Benton County Increase In Local Sales And Use Tax For Law And Justice Needs - 0.3% Sales Tax Ballot Measure” political fund raising committee in his campaign for election to Benton County Prosecuting Attorney scheduled for August 5, 2014 and November 4, 2014 General Election.

Re: BENTON COUNTY, CITY OF KENNEWICK, CITY OF WEST RICHLAND AND
CITY OF RICHLAND OFFICIALS, et. al. – VIOLATION OF RCW 42.17A.555

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It should be noted that the conflict of interest exposed between elected Respondents Josie Delvin and Jerome Delvin in their support by way of public resources, and support by way of political fund raising committee is not a new concern. This expected conflict was first addressed in a March 14, 2012 Tri-City Herald article printed when Respondent Jerome Delvin declared his candidacy for the Benton County Board of Commissioners (see EXHIBIT 23).

Additional Conclusions may result from productions related to the aforementioned Requests for Public Information.

CERTIFICATION

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct.

Yours Truly,



Radphord-Leon Howard

Exhibits (23)

cc: Tony Perkins, PDC Lead Political Finance Specialist (tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov)
Kurt Young, PDC Compliance Officer (kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov)
John McKay, KFLD Radio
La Voz
Tri-City Herald
KONA News Radio
KNDU Television
KVEW Television
KEPR Television
Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business
Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center (jmercier@washingtonpolicy.org)

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EXHIBIT 1

Tri-CityHerald.com

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Where would the money go if the criminal justice sales tax is approved?

By Herald staff

March 5, 2014

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- Related Stories:
- Criminal justice sales tax will head to Benton County voters

This is where the money would go if a Benton County criminal justice sales tax proposal is approved by voters.

“Sworn” positions indicate uniformed law enforcement officers.

Estimated total per year: \$9,176,006

Municipalities: \$3,626,006

Kennewick: 15 sworn positions, one assistant city attorney, two support staff -- \$1.9 million.

Richland: six sworn, three support staff — \$1.2 million.

Prosser: one sworn, 0.8 support staff, technology and training — \$140,400.

West Richland: three to four sworn — \$330,200.

County: \$5,550,000

Clerk’s office: two full-time-equivalent (FTE) deputy clerks, information technology, other support for deputy clerks — \$117,476.

Superior Court: seventh judge, 0.5 FTE court commissioner, juvenile and adult drug court funding, Selective Aggressive Probation program for juveniles functional family therapy — \$571,471.

District Court: judge pro tem, professional services, jury fees, print bindery, additional staff by increasing part-time and one FTE, information technology equipment, miscellaneous -- \$159,300.

Coroner’s Office: one FTE deputy coroner — \$72,000.

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Sheriff's Office: seven sworn, two support staff, two jail booking staff, four corrections staff, inmate management system, radio maintenance — \$1.9 million.

Prosecutor's Office: felony deputy prosecutor, appellate deputy prosecutor, adult felony staff position — \$264,289.

Public defense: Superior Court staff defender, District Court contract defender, one FTE legal assistant, one FTE office support, convert office manager to supervisory position — \$215,330.

Gang & crime prevention and intervention:

Nurse-family partnership program for county residents through Health Department -- \$303,487.

Partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs (after-school programs for gang prevention and youth empowerment) and other similar programs -- \$500,000.

Partnership with Safe Harbor Support Center/My Friends Place for homeless at-risk youth -- \$50,000. Continue funding for Metro Drug Task Force: 100% of deputy prosecutor salary/benefits, 75% of salary/benefits for two support staff, 100% of additional metro detective and related equipment (returning to previously funded two-person strength) — \$400,000.

Mental Health Court and diversion: District Court judge and probation officer, prosecutor and public defender, chemical dependency professional, peer support specialist, treatment cost support for participants (supplementing insurance where needed and providing access for uninsured), case management services for court and mental health diversion/triage -- \$600,000.

Reserve fund: for consideration of additional criminal justice programs like reduction of jail expenses, mental health services for jail inmates, re-entry services and programming for jail inmates -- \$367,631.

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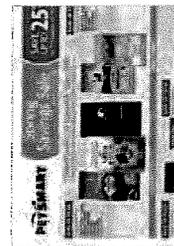
Today's Circulars



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VALID UNTIL MAR 31



PETSMAST USA
VALID UNTIL MAR 28



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EXHIBIT 2

ACCOUNT

Name: Email: Phone: Username: Address:

(509) 554-0296

Jerome Delvin

Profile Details
 Full name, phone, email address, age

Location History
 Current & previous addresses, home values

Family Background
 Family members, relatives, spouse info

Photos & Social Profiles
 Photos, Videos, and Social Network Profiles

Neighborhood
 Neighbors, Nearby Home Values, Public Safety

Phone Number Stats
 Info about this phone number

Full Name: Jerome Delvin
Gender & Age: Male
Email Address: unknown
Birthday: unknown

Current Address: unknown
City & State: Richland, WA
Family Members: 1 Person Found
Property Value: unknown

Phone Type: Mobile
Carrier: New Cingular Wireless Pcs...
Time Zone: Pacific Standard Time
Ethnicity: Caucasian

Location History 1

Find current and previous residences for Jerome Delvin.

unknown address
 Richland, WA
 Est. Home Value: --

Beds: --
 Baths: --
 Sqft: --
 Lot Size: --



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EXHIBIT 3

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 711 CAPITOL WAY RM 206 PO BOX 40908 OLYMPIA WA 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 Toll Free 1-877-601-2628	Political Committee Registration	C1PC (1/12)	RECEIVED Jun 26 2014 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
---	---	-----------------------	---

Committee Name (Include sponsor in committee name. See next page for definition of "sponsor." Show entire official name. Do not use abbreviations or acronyms in this box.) Citizens for Safe Communities	Public Disclosure Commission Acronym: CSC Telephone: (509) 375-3468
---	---

Mailing Address P.O. Box 303	Fax: () -
--	------------

City Richland	County Benton	Zip + 4 99352	E-mail:
-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	---------

NEW OR AMENDED REGISTRATION? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW. Complete entire form. <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDS previous report. Complete entire form.	COMMITTEE STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing (On-going; not established in anticipation of any particular campaign election.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2014 election year only. Date of general or special election: 8-5-14 (primary) (Year)
--	--

1. What is the purpose or description of the committee?
 Bona Fide Political Party Committee - official state or county central committee or legislative district committee. If you are not supporting the entire party ticket, attach a list of the names of the candidates you support.

Ballot Committee - Initiative, Bond, Levy, Recall, etc. Name or description of ballot measure: _____
 Ballot Number FOR AGAINST

Other Political Committee - PAC, caucus committee, political club, etc. If committee is related or affiliated with a business, association, union or similar entity, specify name: _____

For single election-year only committees (not continuing committees): Is the committee supporting or opposing
 (a) one or more candidates? Yes No If yes, attach a list of each candidate's name, office sought and political party affiliation.
 (b) the entire ticket of a political party? Yes No If yes, identify the party:

2. Related or affiliated committees. List name, address and relationship.
 Continued on attached sheet.

3. How much do you plan to spend during this entire election campaign, including the primary and general elections? Based on that estimate, choose one of the reporting options below. (If your committee status is continuing, estimate spending on a calendar year basis.)
 If no box is checked you are obligated to use Full Reporting. See instruction manuals for information about reports required and changing reporting options.
 MINI REPORTING
 Mini Reporting is selected. No more than \$5,000 will be raised or spent and no more than \$500 in the aggregate will be accepted from any one contributor.
 FULL REPORTING
 Full Reporting is selected. The frequent, detailed campaign reports mandated by law will be filed as required.

4. Campaign Manager's or Media Contact's Name and Address Al Wehner 109 Spangler, Richland WA 99352	Telephone Number: (509) 375-3468
---	--

5. Treasurer's Name and Address. Does treasurer perform only ministerial functions? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> See WAC 390-05-243 and next page for details. List deputy treasurers on attached sheet. Josie Delvin, 211 Armistead Ave, Richland	Daytime Telephone Number: (509) 554-0296
---	--

6. Persons who perform only ministerial functions on behalf of this committee and on behalf of candidates or other political committees. List name, title, and address of these persons. See WAC 390-05-243 and next page for details. Continued on attached sheet.
Josie Delvin - 211 Armistead Ave, Richland WA

7. Committee Officers and other persons who authorize expenditures or make decisions for committee. List name, title, and address. See next page for definition of "officer." Continued on attached sheet.
Ken Hohenberg - Kennewick - steering committee member
Andy Miller - Kennewick - steering committee member

8. Campaign Bank or Depository To Be Determined	Branch	City
---	--------	------

9. Campaign books must be open to the public by appointment between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. during the eight days before the election, except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. In the space below, provide contact information for scheduling an appointment and the address where the inspection will take place. It is not acceptable to provide a post office box or an out-of-area address.
 Street Address, Room Number, City where campaign books will be available for inspection
211 Armistead Ave, Richland
 In order to make an appointment, contact the campaign at (telephone, fax, e-mail): **(509) 554-0296**

10. Eligibility to Give to Political Committees and State Office Candidates: A committee must receive \$10 or more each from ten Washington State registered voters before contributing to a Washington State political committee. Additionally, during the six months prior to making a contribution to a state office candidate your committee must have received contributions of \$10 or more each from at least ten Washington State registered voters. <input type="checkbox"/> A check here indicates your awareness of and pledge to comply with these provisions. Absence of a check mark means your committee does not qualify to give to Washington State political committees and/or state office candidates.	11. Signature and Certification. I certify that this statement is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. Committee Treasurer's Signature Josie Del. Date 2-11-14
--	--

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE

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EXHIBIT 4

2009

Telephone Directory & Committee Assignments

61st Washington State Legislature

*Celebrating the 100th Anniversary
of Women's Suffrage in Washington*



Senators

<i>Name (Spouse)</i>	<i>Pol. Dist.</i>	<i>Address/Phone</i>
BECKER, RANDI (Bob Becker)	R 2	PO Box 40402 Olympia, WA 98504-0402 Olympia.....(360) 786-7602 Becker.Randi@leg.wa.gov
BENTON, Don (Mary)	R 17	PO Box 5076 Vancouver, WA 98686 District.....(360) 576-6059 INB 109B, PO Box 40417 Olympia.....(360) 786-7632
BERKEY, Jean (Don)	D 38	JAC 421A, PO Box 40438 Olympia.....(360) 786-7674 Berkey.Jean@leg.wa.gov
BRANDLAND, Dale (Jean)	R 42	PO Box 974 Bellingham, WA 98227 Residence.....(360) 398-1121 INB 203, PO Box 40442 Olympia.....(360) 786-7682 Brandland.Dale@leg.wa.gov
BROWN, Lisa	D 3	District.....(509) 456-2760 LEG 307, PO Box 40403 Olympia.....(360) 786-7604 Brown.Lisa@leg.wa.gov
CARRELL, Mike (Charlotte)	R 28	Residence.....(253) 581-2859 INB 109A, PO Box 40428 Olympia.....(360) 786-7654 Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov
DELVIN, Jerome (Josie)	R 8	PO Box 303 Richland, WA 99352 Residence.....(509) 943-0515 INB 201, PO Box 40408 Olympia.....(360) 786-7614
EIDE, Tracey (Mark)	D 30	28303 Sound View Drive S. #202 Des Moines, WA 98198-8266 Residence.....(253) 941-7574 LEG 305, PO Box 40430 Olympia.....(360) 786-7658 Eide.Tracey@leg.wa.gov

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The Olympian

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Lawmakers' expenses tallied

Records: Orcutt tops House list, Delvin is No. 1 in Senate

By BRAD SHANNON; The Olympian

June 21, 2009

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When it came to getting reimbursed for optional legislator expenses last year, Republican Sen. Jerome Delvin of Richland was No. 1, spending \$59,080 in taxpayer money.

"It's nothing I seek out," Delvin said of his top ranking Friday. He was No. 36 in the Senate the previous year but No. 2 in 2006.

"I did a lot of traveling," Delvin said, noting that he serves on a life-sciences board and the Gambling Commission and has other legislative duties that require him to cross the state frequently by airplane. "I'm elected to a position, and if I'm going to participate and represent my constituents and caucus, it's going to cost for me to travel."

Delvin also put out a newsletter last year; he had skipped doing that the previous year. That drove up his printing and postage costs by more than \$21,000.

Senate and House administrators tally up expense data in the late spring each year, and the latest figures were released to The Olympian this month in response to a records request.

In the House, Republican Rep. Ed Orcutt of Kalama was the top spender at \$57,801, followed by Democratic Rep. Maralyn Chase of Shoreline. Seven Democrats were among the top 10 spenders in the House for 2008 – topped by Chase, Larry Springer and Roger Goodman, both of Kirkland, and Fred Jarrett of Mercer Island (now a senator).

"I didn't think anybody was shockingly out of line," House Majority Leader Lynn Kessler, D-Hoquiam, said after reviewing the data for her chamber in detail Friday. She said publication costs appeared to be driving some of her caucus members' costs, such as those of Chase, who previously had low expenses.

Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane, was No. 2 in the Senate, spending \$51,143, but overall, eight of the Senate's top 10 spenders in 2008 were Republicans.

Reimbursed expenses include mileage, postage and printing for newsletters, optional office costs and per diem expense allowances paid when lawmakers are in session or traveling on legislative business. (Per diem was \$100 in the House last year, \$90 in the Senate.)

Overall, Senate lawmakers were reimbursed for fewer expenses in 2008 than in the previous year, but House members' reimbursed expenses went up – despite a shorter legislative session. Kessler said some members might have put out newsletters in 2008 knowing it was an election year.

NEW RULES

Tight budgets have changed the rules this year, and lawmakers in both chambers face stricter limits on travel and new accounting rules that could lead to lower reimbursements, particularly mailings, Kessler said. Other cuts involve reducing the Legislature's staffing and furloughs without pay for many.

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"Once the 2009 budget reality sets in ... I think we'll see a little sea change in the next couple of years in legislator reimbursements, Kessler said.

Orcutt, a critic of Democrats' budget choices, said he was concerned when he learned of his own spending total. He responded by cutting expenses this year.

"Believe me, before I even saw that I was concerned about how much was coming out of the budget. So this year I opted not to send a mailer out to the district to save money; I didn't go to one of the (group) meetings," Orcutt said. "So I am trying to cut back because of the budget issue."

Orcutt said his costs were legitimate and partly a result of serving on many committees, including study groups, as well as being the ranking minority on House Finance.

"I'm on the Western Forestry Task Force, I'm on the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, and I was on the digital-goods study group. Then I had another work group that used up my discretionary days," he said.

What put him at the top was a decision to go it alone in 2008 in sending out a mailer rather than sharing with his district seatmate.

Some lawmakers have low expenses every year, and Democratic Sen. Karen Fraser of Thurston County usually is near the bottom of the list. Because she lives near Olympia, she declines the \$90-per-day expense money paid to lawmakers during sessions.

As a result, Fraser ranked No. 48 in the Senate with \$17,738 in expenses in 2008. Only Sen. Debbie Regala, D-Tacoma, was lower at \$14,702.

Democratic Rep. Sam Hunt of Olympia ranked No. 98 in the House with \$17,672. That was below all but a few lawmakers who left office early in the year.

CUTTING MAIL COSTS

Like Fraser, Hunt switched to e-mail delivery of newsletters a few years ago and spent \$244 on printing and related postage last year. But he had higher expenses in other areas, taking the full \$10,000 taxable allotment for quarterly office expenses and collecting an additional \$6,709 in per diem or expense money – even though he lives in Olympia during sessions.

Among other South Sound lawmakers, the top Senate spender was Marilyn Rasmussen, a Democrat who ranked No. 28 and spent \$38,284. She lost her re-election bid last fall.

In the House, Democratic Rep. Brendan Williams of Olympia was highest at No. 34, spending \$40,383. He spent \$24,204 on mailings, received \$6,000 per diem despite living in Olympia, and received \$10,000 for office costs.

Unlike the Senate, where Brown and Senate Republican Leader Mike Hewitt of Walla Walla both were in the top 10, House leaders kept their costs down. House Speaker Frank Chopp, D-Seattle, ranked No. 87 with \$26,110 in costs, and House Republican Leader Richard DeBolt of Chehalis was No. 92 with \$25,055.

Brad Shannon: 360-753-1688

bshannon@theolympian.com

www.theolympian.com/politicsblog

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EXHIBIT 6

This is a printer friendly version of an article from www.peninsuladailynews.com
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Article published Jan 31, 2013

Lawmakers rack up hefty cellphone bills

By Mike Baker

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA — During last year's wrangling with budget troubles, state Sen. Jerome Delvin racked up a cellphone bill that would make most users recoil: \$309.21 in a single month.

The bill wasn't unusual for Delvin, who submitted the costs for taxpayers to cover.

The Republican from Richland regularly posted cellphone bills surpassing \$180 a month during the past two years, with some jumping much higher and one topping out at \$382.75.

Delvin said the higher bills were typically from when he was traveling, but he acknowledged that he may need to reassess the AT&T plan that gives him 700 minutes a month.

"There's probably a cheaper plan out there," Delvin conceded.

Records obtained by The Associated Press under public records laws show several lawmakers consistently submitting hefty cellphone bills that stretched beyond the normal cost of even some of the most generous wireless plans.

Others seemed to submit expenses crafted to avoid disclosure rules.

Some lawmakers were compensated for large portions of the family plans that they shared with others.

Sen. Adam Kline, D-Seattle, received full compensation for the entire family plan that he shares with his wife.

After an AP reporter asked Kline about the expenses, such as one monthly bill that was \$193.48 for two phones, Kline said he was checking into the matter.

He later said it was done in error and said he plans to reimburse the state for the money paid to cover his wife's bill.

"Thanks for bringing this to my attention," Kline said.

Other lawmakers consistently posted bills for around \$130 to \$150, which would make the plans extremely costly.

Verizon and AT&T, for example, offer a smartphone plan with unlimited calling, unlimited texting and a comfortable 4GB of data for \$110 plus taxes and fees.

House rules explicitly say members must estimate their legislative usage and get reimbursed for

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those portions so the state isn't paying the cost of personal or campaign calling, and those parameters lead some lawmakers to submit monthly bills for only \$45 or \$50.

When senators submit their bills, they sign under penalty of perjury that they are making a claim for "necessary legislative business expenses."

Delvin said it was his understanding that the phone can be used for any type of calls.

He also regularly received expenses of around \$163 every month for phone and Internet service in his home office.

Many other lawmakers appeared to file bills that avoided disclosure rules.

Both chambers require legislators to submit a receipt as proof when their bills go over \$75. Sixteen lawmakers regularly submitted bills between \$74 and \$74.99.

Senate Majority Leader Rodney Tom, a Democrat, was among those who filed receipts right under the disclosure threshold. He submitted bills each month for \$74.50 for his cellphone.

But he also separately submitted monthly bills of \$55 for a data plan, bringing his total to about \$130 a month.

Tom said he got the \$74.50 number by estimating how much of his calling was for legislative use and that it wasn't an effort to avoid the \$75 disclosure rule.

He also said he reported the data plan information separately because that's how he believed it was supposed to be done.

"They are two different things," Tom said.

Tom, who lives in the wealthy enclave of Medina, also got reimbursed \$328.49 for an iPhone in 2011.

Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver, introduced legislation this week in an effort to corral overall state spending on cellphone use.

His proposal would place new rules on the circumstances under which state agencies can give out devices to their employees.

"The state shouldn't be providing you with a cellphone unless it's necessary for you to perform the functions of your job," Benton said.

Benton said the measure would not apply to lawmakers, since they get reimbursed and are not issued phones by the state.

He bills \$150 each month for his cellphone.

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Benton County may ask voters to pass a criminal justice sales tax

By Kristi Pihl

Tri-City Herald Staff Writer February 25, 2014

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Kennewick — Kennewick could add up to 12 more police officers if Benton County voters approve a proposed criminal justice sales tax measure later this year.

But Kennewick residents, along with the rest of Benton County, also would benefit from county-wide gang prevention and intervention programs, if the tax measure passes, Kennewick police Chief Ken Hohenberg told the Kennewick City Council on Tuesday.

The Benton County Law & Justice Council will recommend that Benton County ask voters to approve a 0.3 percent criminal justice sales tax this year, Hohenberg said.

Benton County commissioners are expected to consider the request March 4, he said.

Hohenberg said the Law & Justice group is going to suggest a sunset clause of 10 years for the tax.

The Law & Justice council will be asking for the measure to be considered in the August primary, he said. The group is meeting today.

Franklin County voters approved a 0.3 percent criminal justice sales tax in 2011.

Benton County's proposed criminal justice sales tax could support 15 police officers, Hohenberg said.

"It would cover more than just patrol officers," he said.

Benton County is considering using part of the 60 percent of the revenue that it would receive from the tax for gang prevention and intervention programs, he said.

The cities would split the remaining 40 percent based on population, Hohenberg said.

Kennewick added three police officers last year, bringing the department to 93 officers.

Those additional patrol officers were added so the police department no longer would have to pull from the criminal-apprehension team, which focuses on criminal gang activity, for regular city patrols.

The city paid for the positions by maintaining the city's levy rate in 2013, which increased the revenue the city could collect.

If voters approve the proposed criminal justice sales tax, Kennewick City Manager Marie Mosley said the city will use the property tax dollars to hire three fire captains and some sales tax money for the three police officer positions.

The city's criminal apprehension team handled 466 cases last year, more than twice what it was assigned the previous year. Members made 948 felony arrests, up more than 200 from the previous year. The team's misdemeanor arrests numbered 433, up by more than 40 from the previous year.

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The city of Kennewick has 1.22 officers per 1,000 city residents, according to city documents. The rate is based on the state average declining since the early 2000s. The city has remained under the state average for at least the past seven years.

The state average was 1.68 officers per 1,000 in 2012, while the city's rate was 1.24.

Hiring five more police officers would bump Kennewick up to 1.28 officers per 1,000 city residents, according to city documents. It would take 25 more officers to get Kennewick to 1.54 officers per 1,000 city residents.

The city's police call volume has increased about 5 percent in the past five years, but the amount of time officers spend investigating has grown 26 percent, Hohenberg said.

The scope and complexity of what officers deal with has grown, especially when it comes to gang activity, he said.

The good news is the overall crime rate has declined in the past ten years, Hohenberg said.

The rate has dramatically declined from 51.2 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2003, to 35.9 crimes per 1,000 residents last year, he said.

During the same time, the city's population grew by 19,000 people to more than 76,000, he said.

"We still live in a very safe community," the chief said.

The true challenge is how to keep it that way, he said.

There were 2 percent more crimes last year than the previous year. The city's population also grew by 2 percent during that same time.

Kennewick had a total of 2,744 crimes reported last year, compared with 2,685 in 2012, according to city documents. The total number of crimes remained fewer than what the city experienced each year between 2003-06 and in 2010 and 2011.

In total, there were 241 violent crimes and 2,504 property-related crimes last year, according to city documents. Kennewick had two homicides, 31 rapes, 43 robberies and 165 aggravated assaults, relatively unchanged from the previous year. The city saw more auto thefts and larceny, but fewer burglaries.

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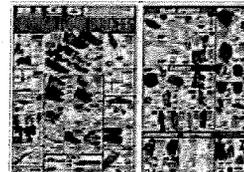
JCPENNEY
EXPIRES TOMORROW



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RITE AID
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EXPIRES TOMORROW

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EXHIBIT 8

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small
County Administrator David Sparks
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Absent: Commissioner Jerome Delvin (NACO Conference)

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Public Works Manager Steve Becken; Ed Thornbrugh, Human Services; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; DPA Ryan Brown; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court; Clerk Josie Delvin; Auditor Brenda Chilton; County Engineer Daniel Ford; Sheriff Steve Keane; Donna Holmes, Solid Waste; Pat Austin, Superior Court Administration; Erhiza Rivera, Treasurer's Office; Superior Court Judges Cameron Mitchell and Bruce Spanner; Treasurer Duane Davidson; DPA Steve Hallstrom.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of February 25, 2014 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the consent agenda items "a" through "m" and said he wanted to discuss the addition of item "o" (Amendment to Comprehensive Plan, Rescinding Resolution 2014-176). Chairman Beaver seconded.

Item "o" – Amendment to Comprehensive Plan – Rescinding Resolution 2014-176

Susan Walker stated that when the Board adopted the Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan for the Urban Growth Area filed by the City of Kennewick (CPA 13-01) the reference to the maps were in error and it was not in proper resolution form. She said the new resolution corrected the map numbers and attached the findings to the correct resolution format. Ms. Walker stated there was a publication date deadline and they had 10 days to publish in the paper and by making this correction, they could stay within the time frame.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to add item "o" as presented to the consent agenda. Chairman Beaver seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Upon vote, the Board approved the consent agenda as amended with the inclusion of item "o" as follows:

Auditor

- a. Lease Agreement w/Fred Meyer Stores, Inc. for Space at Richland Annex Office

Commissioners

- b. Selecting Integrus Architecture for Jail Analysis/Study

Human Services

- c. Appointments to the Human Services Advisory Board
- d. Grant Agreement w/Therapeutic Innovations & Recovery for Homeless Housing Plan
- e. Grant Agreement w/Housing Authority City of Kennewick for Homeless Housing Plan
- f. Grant Agreement w/Domestic Violence Services for Homeless Housing Plan

Information Technology

- g. Purchase Authorization of Record Software & Sound Card From Jo Bee Company

Juvenile

- h. Payment Authorization to Apollo Heating & Air for Maintenance & Repairs

Parks

- i. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0110-102, Dept. 000

Personnel

- j. Authorization to Proceed w/Request for Qualifications for Security Camera Project Consultant

Public Works

- k. Award of Bituminous Surface Treatment to Granite Construction Company
- l. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0114-101, Dept. 000
- m. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0501-101, Dept. 650

Sheriff

- n. Contract w/Full Throttle Motorcycle Accessories, LLC for Parts & Repairs

Planning

- o. Amendment to the Benton County Comprehensive Plan – Urban Growth Area – File CPA 13-01 – Rescinding Resolution 2014-176

Law & Justice Council Proposal – Sales & Use Tax for Funding Law & Justice Needs

Eric Hsu presented the resolution and funding package for placement on the ballot of a proposition for an increase in sales and use tax. He said it received unanimous support from the Law & Justice Council.

Sheriff Keane said he knew public safety was a top priority for this Board. He stated that law enforcement was changing and they were required to obtain search warrants for every search they conduct and deputies and officers were spending a lot more time with their investigations. He said it took a lot of specialized training and forensic analysis and a lot of time was dictated by technology and case law and the cost of doing business was going up. He said he was in

agreement that it was time to take this issue to the voters to see if a criminal justice sales tax was the way to handle these issues.

Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg said he agreed with the priority of Benton County and the cities of the importance of public safety. He said they looked at the strategic needs of the county and all entities and the prevention of gang violence and the proposed plan had that built into it. He said they also looked into the metro drug task force since that funding was going away. Chief Hohenberg presented letters of support from business members, the Cities of Prosser, Richland, West Richland, and Kennewick and read a letter into the record from a group "Citizens for Safe Communities" giving their support of the tax measure.

Commissioner Small said he made several contacts (close to 300) to talk about this issue and most were very supportive of this issue.

Chairman Beaver said he supported the issue the last time it went to a vote. Additionally, he commented that all things the Board could talk about (expansion of economic development, tourism, etc.) was not possible without public safety and it was paramount in their ability to move forward. He said if this community was not seen as safe, the others things they were trying to sell would not be desirable. He said he heard from Commissioner Delvin and that he was fully supportive of this issue.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the resolution in the matter of placement on the ballot of a proposition for an increase in sales and use tax for funding law and justice needs in Benton County. Chairman Beaver seconded.

Discussion

Jerry Martin (from the audience) asked if he could make comments regarding this issue before the vote of the Board.

Chairman Beaver responded this was not a public hearing and said he could make his comments during unscheduled visitors.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:33 a.m.

Chairman Beaver said he moved the Law & Justice presentation first since there were several people present in the audience and could leave after the presentation.

Public Hearing – Adoption of Benton County Solid Waste Plan

Donna Holmes said the solid waste plan was required to be reviewed every five years and revised as necessary per RCW 70.95.110; the last update was in 2007. She indicated it needed to be updated to delete the section about the hazardous waste facility that burned down and include that they were now conducting mobile events. Ms. Holmes said the plan was amended

accordingly, went through the review process with the cities and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, and given a Certificate of Non-Significance by the Benton County Planning Commission. She said there was a requirement for a public hearing to have the plan included in the Benton County Comprehensive Plan.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the Benton County Solid Waste Plan as presented. Chairman Beaver seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

WTSC Grant Funding

Lt. White via/video conference, said the Sheriff's Office submitted a school zone grant request for \$5,600 to purchase four radar packages and the funding was approved by the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs. He requested the Board approve the resolution accepting the grant funding to purchase the four radar packages.

Commissioner Small asked if the grant included everything that was needed and Lt. White stated it did; also that the request to the Board initially included a universal speedometer interface but they would only be purchasing the four radar packages.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the acceptance of grant funding from Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs for Traffic Safety Equipment and authorize the purchase of four (4) MPH Python III Radar Packages from Washington State Contract No. 01611 for an amount not to exceed \$5,600. Chairman Beaver seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Beaver announced the Board would have an executive session regarding labor disputes after other business.

Unscheduled Visitors

Jerry Martin said he was hoping to speak to the Board before they voted on the sales tax. He said he was representing himself and on behalf of the Tri-Cities Tea Party and then read a letter into the record opposing the vote to increase the sales tax and requesting the alternative plan of a performance audit to find money. He said they would campaign against this message and believed it would not pass.

Commissioner Small said he would like to take some to review the issue.

Chairman Beaver said this was not the only issue they were asked to look at and this issue would go to the community and the voters would answer the question. He said he understand Mr. Martin was out-voted as part of the citizens advisory committee and that he was going with the recommendation of the committee. He stated that the County was audited every year by the State Auditor and had performance audits daily by the public. He said they took the issue of spending money very seriously and were just trying to do the right thing.

Commissioner Small said he appreciated Mr. Martin's concern to make sure that government was doing the right thing and he said they were doing everything they could and were in the process of trying to reduce the County footprint.

Mr. Martin said he was not mad and was not complaining but seeking an opportunity to present a contrary argument for the sales tax. He said he realized he did not make a compelling argument to the Board. However, he cautioned the Board to take note that the sales tax would not get approved and the Board needed to have a backup plan. He asked the Board to review his proposal for performance audits independent from its decision.

Other Business

Adam Fyall gave a Powerpoint presentation regarding his trip with Commissioner Beaver to the ECA conference in Washington D.C. and summarized their "Hanford on the Hill" Trip. It included Congressional & Agency Meetings on February 25 and 26 and ECA Peer Exchange & Board Meetings on February 27 and 28.

Chairman Beaver complimented Mr. Fyall on the presentation and said he couldn't say enough about that work that Adam did on this issue.

Executive Session – Labor Dispute

The Board went into executive session at 10:13 a.m. for up to 15 minutes to discuss a strategy for a grievance on a labor dispute with DPA Steve Hallstrom. Also present were Ryan Brown, Dan Ford, Steve Becken, Loretta Smith Kelty, Melina Wenner, David Sparks, and Cami McKenzie. The Board came out at 10:23 a.m. Mr. Hallstrom stated the Board discussed a strategy for a grievance and no action was taken.

Vouchers

Check Date: 02/28/2014
Transfers #: 022801-022807
Total all funds: \$165,092.47

Check Date: 02/28/2014
Warrant #: 97228-97561
Total all funds: \$1,120,310.64

Total amounts approved by fund can be reviewed in the Benton County Auditor's Office.

Resolutions

- 2014-190: **This Resolution number skipped in error**
- 2014-191: Amendment to the Benton County Comprehensive Plan – Urban Growth Area – File CPA 13-01 – Rescinding Resolution 2014-176
- 2014-192: Lease Agreement w/Fred Meyer Stores, Inc. for Space at Richland Annex Office

- 2014-193: Selecting Integrus Architecture for Jail Analysis/Study
- 2014-194: Appointments to the Human Services Advisory Board
- 2014-195: Grant Agreement w/Therapeutic Innovations & Recovery for Homeless Housing Plan
- 2014-196: Grant Agreement w/Housing Authority City of Kennewick for Homeless Housing Plan
- 2014-197: Grant Agreement w/Domestic Violence Services for Homeless Housing Plan
- 2014-198: Purchase Authorization of Record Software & Sound Card From Jo Bee Company
- 2014-199: Payment Authorization to Apollo Heating & Air for Maintenance & Repairs
- 2014-200: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0110-102, Dept. 000
- 2014-201: Authorization to Proceed w/Request for Qualifications for Security Camera Project Consultant
- 2014-202: Award of Bituminous Surface Treatment to Granite Construction Company
- 2014-203: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0114-101, Dept. 000
- 2014-204: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0501-101, Dept. 650
- 2014-205: Contract w/Full Throttle Motorcycle Accessories, LLC for Parts & Repairs
- 2014-206: Placement on the Ballot of a Proposition for an Increase in Sales & Use Tax for Funding Law & Justice Needs in Benton County
- 2014-207: Approval of Benton County Solid Waste Plan
- 2014-208: WSP Grant

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:23 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman

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EXHIBIT 9

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Citizens group to push criminal justice sales tax proposal

By Sara Schilling, Tri-City Herald March 24, 2014 Updated 7 hours ago

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A citizens committee has formed to promote the proposed sales tax for criminal justice needs that heads to Benton County voters this summer.

The measure will be on the Aug. 5 ballot.

If approved, the increase of three-tenths of 1 percent will add three pennies to a \$10 purchase and raise an estimated \$9.2 million annually. The money will pay for personnel and services ranging from more law enforcement officers to gang prevention and intervention efforts and a mental health court.

"It's important to know the members of our organization do not generally support tax increases. We take seriously the fact that your money is hard earned. We fiercely object when government spends taxpayer money wastefully," Ken Hohenberg, Kennewick's police chief and spokesman for Citizens for Safe Communities, said during a news conference Monday.

But the criminal justice measure is different, addressing the critical need of public safety, he said.

He also noted it's a sales tax, not a property tax, meaning "people making purchases while traveling through or visiting the county will help contribute to public safety," not just residents.

And the sales tax would expire after 10 years. "Voters can reassess if it's as necessary then as it is today. And it will help ensure proper accountability," Hohenberg said.

Along with Hohenberg, Benton County Clerk Josie Delvin and Prosecutor Andy Miller make up the Citizens for Safe Communities' steering committee.

Several business and community leaders have signed on as honorary co-chairmen, from Bill McCurley of McCurley Integrity Dealerships to Kris Watkins of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau.

Watkins said public safety is a key part of economic development. "A community gets a reputation, and we want to keep that reputation as a safe and sound community," she said. "For us, it's a very important initiative."

The committee has raised about \$9,100 so far.

Some opposition has popped up. A citizens group, called Benton County Citizens for Efficient Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement, formed to campaign against the measure.

Chairman Robert Sparks of Kennewick said public safety is a legitimate need but his group feels the measure is asking for too much money. "We're asking them to keep it reasonable. Cover what you need and that's it," Sparks said. "We're getting hit hard enough."

The Tri-Cities Tea Party, which generally opposes tax increases, hasn't taken a formal position on the proposal but isn't planning to actively campaign against it, Jerry Martin, the group's past president, said Monday.

If the sales tax measure passes, the revenue will be divided among Benton County and its cities, with the county getting 60 percent, and Kennewick, Richland, West Richland and Prosser splitting the rest based on their population.

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The cities plan to use their shares largely to add more police officers and support staff.

A portion of Benton County's share would be dedicated to a new mental health court program.

The county also would add staff across its criminal justice-related departments and set aside money for the drug court program and the Tri-City Metro Drug Task Force, both of which have faced funding struggles.

The county also would dedicate money to gang and crime intervention efforts, including partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties and My Friends Place, the area's youth homeless shelter.

For more information on Citizens for Safe Communities, go to www.citizens4safecommunities.com.

-- Sara Schilling: 582-1529; sschilling@tricityherald.com; Twitter: @saraTCHerald

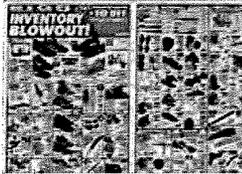
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MUSICIAN'S FRIEND
VALID UNTIL APR 30



PETSMART USA
4 DAYS LEFT



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EXHIBIT 10



WHOIS search results for:
CITIZENS4SAFECOMMUNITIES.COM
(Registered)

Is this your domain?

[GO](#)

Want to buy this domain?

[GO](#)

Add hosting, email and more.

Get it with our Domain Buy service.

Whois Server Version 2.0

Domain names in the .com and .net domains can now be registered with many different competing registrars. Go to <http://www.internic.net> for detailed information.

Domain Name: CITIZENS4SAFECOMMUNITIES.COM
Registrar: GODADDY.COM, LLC
Whois Server: whois.godaddy.com
Referral URL: <http://registrar.godaddy.com>
Name Server: NS1.CLINEHOST.COM
Name Server: NS2.CLINEHOST.COM
Status: clientDeleteProhibited
Status: clientRenewProhibited
Status: clientTransferProhibited
Status: clientUpdateProhibited
Updated Date: 09-mar-2014
Creation Date: 05-mar-2014
Expiration Date: 05-mar-2015

>>> Last update of whois database: Tue, 25 Mar 2014 14:27:16 UTC <<<

NOTICE: The expiration date displayed in this record is the date the registrar's sponsorship of the domain name registration in the registry is currently set to expire. This date does not necessarily reflect the expiration date of the domain name registrant's agreement with the sponsoring registrar. Users may consult the sponsoring registrar's Whois database to view the registrar's reported date of expiration for this registration.

TERMS OF USE: You are not authorized to access or query our Whois database through the use of electronic processes that are high-volume and automated except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations; the Data in VeriSign Global Registry Services' ("VeriSign") Whois database is provided by VeriSign for information purposes only, and to assist persons in obtaining information about or related to a domain name registration record. VeriSign does not guarantee its accuracy. By submitting a Whois query, you agree to abide by the following terms of use: You agree that you may use this Data only for lawful purposes and that under no circumstances will you use this Data to: (1) allow, enable, or otherwise support the transmission of mass unsolicited, commercial advertising or solicitations via e-mail, telephone, or facsimile; or (2) enable high volume, automated, electronic processes that apply to VeriSign (or its computer systems). The compilation, repackaging, dissemination or other use of this Data is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of VeriSign. You agree not to use electronic processes that are automated and high-volume to access or query the Whois database except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations. VeriSign reserves the right to restrict your access to the Whois database in its sole discretion to ensure operational stability. VeriSign may restrict or terminate your access to the Whois database for failure to abide by these terms of use. VeriSign reserves the right to modify these terms at any time.

The Registry database contains ONLY .COM, .NET, .EDU domains and Registrars.

See [Standard Whois](#)

Domain already taken?

Enter Domain Name .COM

NameMatch Recommendations

GoDaddy.com NameMatch has found similar domain names related to your search. Registering multiple domain names may help protect your online brand and enable you to capture more Web traffic, which you can then direct to your primary domain.

Domains available for new registration:

Alternate TLDs		
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.info	SAVE! \$2.99*/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.net	SAVE! \$9.99*/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.org	SAVE! \$8.99*/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.us	SAVE! \$3.99*/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.biz	SAVE! \$7.99*/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.mobi	SAVE! \$9.99*/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.ca	\$12.99/yr
<input type="checkbox"/>	citizens4safecommunities.me	SAVE! \$9.99/yr
Similar Premium Domains ?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior-Community.com	\$499.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	SeniorCitizenActivities.com	\$1,149.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	CitizensOutreach.com	\$401.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	SafeContact.com	\$2,588.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	AcmeSafe.com	\$2,588.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	ActiveSafe.com	\$2,388.00*
ADD TO CART		

Domains available at Go Daddy Auctions@:

<input type="checkbox"/>	singlescommunities.com Ends on: 6/23/2014 3:28:00 PM PDT	\$688.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	seasonedcitizens.com Ends on: 6/23/2014 2:21:00 PM PDT	\$1,688.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	servicecommunities.com Ends on: 6/23/2014 11:56:00 AM PDT	\$955.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	schoolcommunities.com Ends on: 6/23/2014 10:44:00 AM PDT	\$3,888.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	youngcitizens.com Ends on: 6/22/2014 4:54:00 PM PDT	\$1,200.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	transformingcommunities.com Ends on: 6/21/2014 1:41:00 PM PDT	\$688.00*
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EXHIBIT 11

Approve
the Public
Safety
Sales Tax

CITIZENS FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

Primary
Election
August 5th

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- [Ballot Measure Wording](#)
- [Resolution Approved by Commissioners](#)
- [Anticipated Revenue](#)

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[Tax Rate Comparisons](#)

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- [Kennawick Residents](#)
- [Richland Residents](#)
- [West Richland Residents](#)
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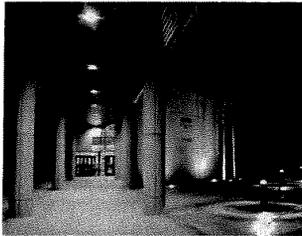
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Welcome

Welcome to the **Citizens for Safe Communities** official website. We hope the information provided on the Benton County **Public Safety Sales Tax** is helpful. It will be presented to voters during the August 5, 2014 primary election. We would appreciate your **support**. Please use the column on the left to navigate through our site.



This is a much-needed **ballot measure** to strengthen public safety in Benton County. It is offered to voters only after **extensive research** was conducted on the county's criminal justice system needs. Those who formally analyzed the issues agree a sales tax in the **amount of 0.3%** (three pennies on a \$10 purchase) is necessary to meet current and future public safety **needs**. There is **no better deal** for your money.



This ballot measure is a **comprehensive approach** to improve public safety **county-wide**, including specific funding for the cities of **Kennawick, Richland, West Richland** and **Prosser**. It will provide for an essential increase in police officers, as well as several other **important programs**. The measure will expire in 10 years, allowing voters to reassess if it's as necessary then as it is today.

Your support is crucial. You can make a difference by voting to approve this ballot measure on August 5th.

Citizens for Safe Communities

Committee Members

Honorary Chairpersons:

Bill McCurley
*Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships*

Bill Lampson
*President,
Lampson International*

Kris Watkins
*President & CEO,
Tri-Cities Visitor &
Convention Bureau*

Ana Armijo
*Benton County
Superior Court
Interpreter/Translator*

Paul Warden
*Mayor,
City of Prosser*

Karen McGinnis
*Director,
HAMMER Training
Ctr., MSA*

Craig D. Eerkes
*President,
Sun Pacific Energy*

Steering Committee:

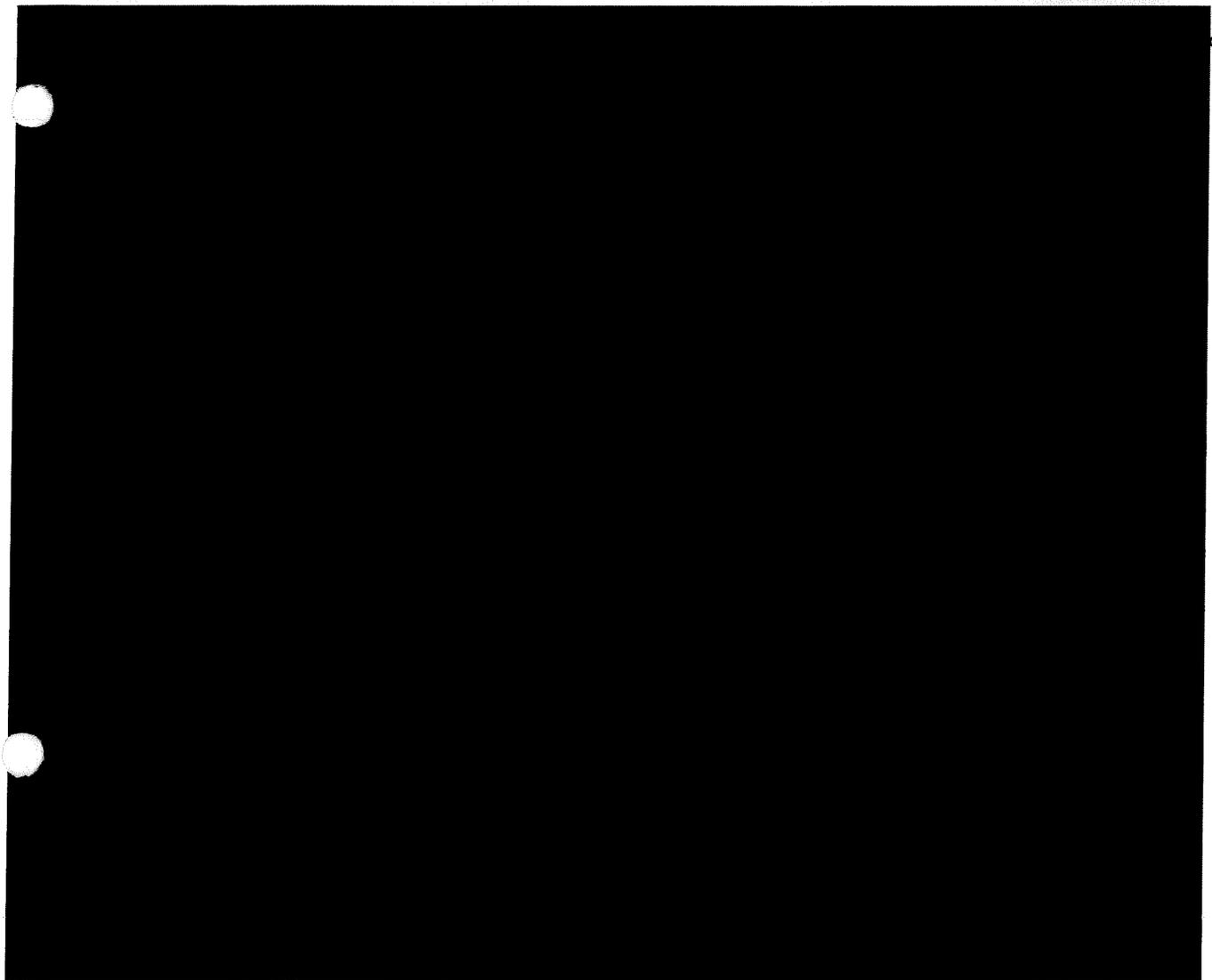
Ken Hohenberg
*Kennawick
Police Chief*

Andy Miller
*Benton County
Prosecutor*

Josie Delvin
*Benton County
Clerk*

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Approve
the Public
Safety
Sales Tax

CITIZENS FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

Primary
Election
August 5th

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Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Public Safety Sales Tax?

It's a much-needed measure to strengthen public safety in Benton County. It will do so through a minor sales tax - and one with an expiration date. Commissioners approved the ballot measure to appear before voters on the August 5th primary election. Read the entire ballot measure [here](#). Read the resolution passed by commissioners [here](#).

Why is the sales tax needed?

The sales tax addresses one core issue that impacts everything else we do - our safety. It will put more police officers on the street. It will maintain funding for important crime-fighting strategies such as the Metro Drug Task Force. It will help fight criminal gangs - not only through enforcement, but also by providing our youth with alternatives to the gang lifestyle. The tax will help continue our successful drug court. It will offer for the first time a mental health court. It will provide funding for necessary support staff and improve our criminal justice system. All these measures will help ensure, and improve upon, the quality of life we expect as Benton County residents.

What is the amount of the Public Safety Sales Tax?

Only three tenths of one percent (0.3%). This equates to three pennies on a \$10 purchase. It is a sales tax, not a property tax, so those who make purchases while visiting or traveling through the county will also be supporting public safety. Click [here](#) to see how our sales tax will compare with other cities in the state.

Is this one of those never-ending taxes?

Absolutely not. This tax will expire in 10 years. It is purposely designed to allow voters to reassess if it's as necessary then as it is today. This will also ensure accountability by our local city and county governments on the spending of taxpayer monies. Voters will have the opportunity to reject any extension of this tax if they don't believe local governments have been good stewards of our money.

Who recommended this measure, and why is it for this amount?

An independent citizen advisory group first studied the issue for several months in 2013. These tax paying citizens concluded a three tenths of one percent sales tax was needed to meet the needs of our criminal justice system. The county's Law and Justice Council then studied the matter for several more months. They concurred with the citizen's group finding, and provided details on how the money should be spent. These recommendations were then reviewed and accepted by county commissioners.

How will the money be spent?

It will fund an essential increase in police officers in each of the cities and county. It will provide funding for necessary support, not only for police agencies but also the courts and the rest of the criminal justice system. It will ensure continued funding for the

Committee Members

Honorary
Chairpersons:

Bill McCurley
Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships

Bill Lampson
President,
Lampson International

Kris Watkins
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Tri-Cities Visitor &
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Kennewick
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Benton County
Prosecutor

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Metro Drug Task Force and the drug court. It will provide for implementation of a mental health court. And it will help combat criminal gangs; not only through enforcement efforts but also by funding programs (sponsored by organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club) that will provide our youth with an alternative to the gang lifestyle. Read [here](#) to see how the money will be allocated.

What makes this measure different?

Unlike other taxes that may address issues of convenience or non-essential services, this tax will fund only public safety needs. It is critical to finance this core service to not only ensure, but to increase, our safety and the quality of life that Benton County residents expect. It will allow voters to tell criminals we will not allow them to victimize us. It will allow continued funding of vital crime-fighting strategies. And it will provide our youth with an alternative to the gang lifestyle. But, just as importantly, it will allow people to receive needed help through programs such as drug and mental health court. No other revenue plan addresses the core issue of safety like the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Will this tax solve the mental health issues in the criminal justice system?

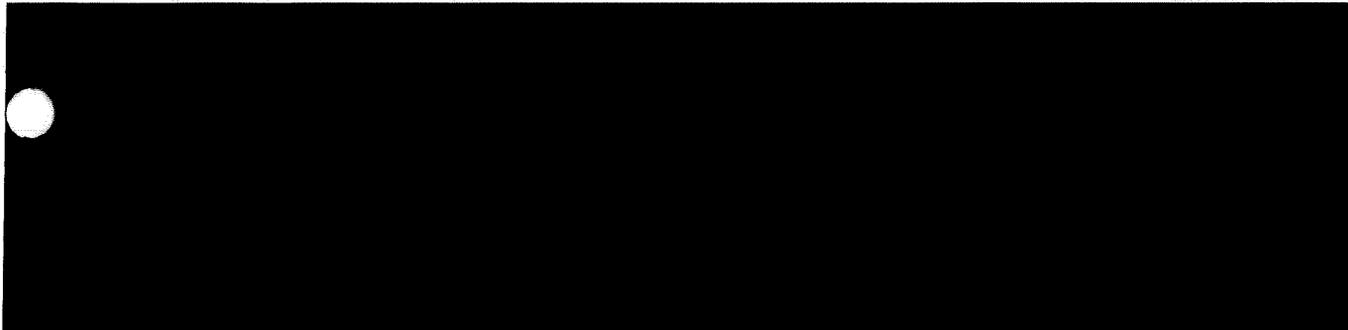
The Tri-City Herald has recently done a good job of publicizing the unique challenges people suffering from legitimate mental health illnesses face in the criminal justice system. Nobody pretends that this measure will solve all those challenges. But it is certainly a good first step in the right direction. The tax will allow creation of a mental health court for which there is currently no funding available.

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About the Citizens for Safe Communities

PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION!

The Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) is comprised of residents and/or business owners in Benton County. The group organized in anticipation of a March 2014 proposal being made to Benton County Commissioners requesting they place a Public Safety Sales Tax before county voters. Commissioners subsequently approved the ballot measure for the August 5, 2014 primary election.



CSC members understand the importance of public safety, and the correlation it has to the quality of life that we have come to expect in our communities. We trust our law enforcement representatives when they tell us this measure is needed.

We want to send a message to criminals that we will not allow them to victimize us. We want to offer the message of hope to our youth that there are alternatives to the gang lifestyle. We support funding these alternatives through programs sponsored by organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. We believe in helping those who suffer from addiction or mental illness by providing options such as special drug and mental health courts. We want to help improve the criminal justice system.

It's important to know that CSC members do not generally endorse or support tax measures. We take seriously the fact that your money is hard-earned. We fiercely object when government spends taxpayer money wastefully. However, for the reasons stated above and below, we believe this measure is different - it is critically important and justified. It is one that we are not only willing to approve, but also volunteer our time and effort to help pass.

We think it appropriate that this is a sales tax, not a property tax. People who make purchases while traveling through or visiting the county will help contribute to public safety, along with those who live here. We like that the tax will expire after 10 years. This helps ensure accountability that our money is being spent wisely, and will require another ballot measure to be continued. We ultimately believe this is a matter to be decided by the voters of Benton County, and trust they will make the right decision.

The CSC is proud to have important community members volunteering to serve on its committees. They include:

- * Bill McCurley, *Chairman of McCurley Integrity Dealerships.*
- * Bill Lampson, *President of Lampson International.*
- * Kris Watkins, *President & CEO of Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau*
- * Ana Armijo, *Benton County Superior Court Interpreter/Translator*
- * Paul Warden, *Mayor for the City of Prosser.*
- * Karen McGinnis, *Director of the HAMMER Training Ctr., MSA*
- * Craig D. Eerkes, *President of Sun Pacific Energy.*
- * Ken Hohenberg, *Chief of the Kennewick Police Department.*
- * Andy Miller, *Benton County Prosecuting Attorney.*
- * Josie Delvin, *Benton County Clerk.*

Please click [here](#) if you are interested in volunteering or financially supporting this cause.

Committee Members

*Honorary
Chairpersons:*

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*President,
Sun Pacific Energy*

*Steering
Committee:*

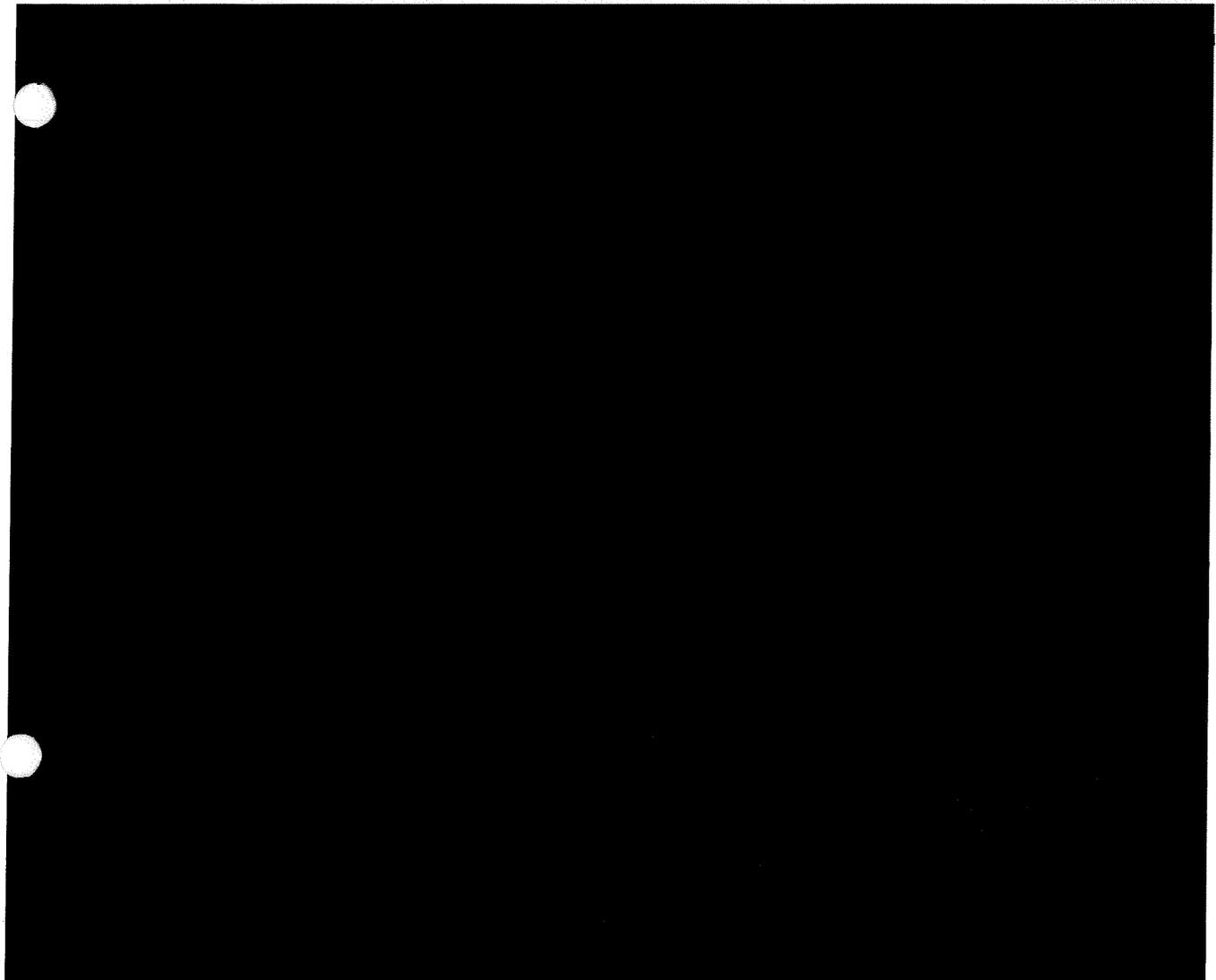
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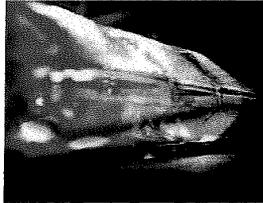
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Authority for a Public Safety Tax

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Authority for a Public Safety Sales Tax

Sales and use taxes for counties and cities are authorized by RCW 82.14.450. It reads "A county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters at a primary or general election and, if approved by a majority of persons voting, impose a sales and use tax."



The rate of tax under this section may not exceed three-tenths (0.3) of one percent (1%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax. One-third of all money received under this section must be used solely for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purposes, or both. Sixty percent (60%) of the money received must be retained by the county and forty percent (40%) must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county. The use of monies received by a sales tax shall be restricted to those items specified in the ballot measure language.

The definition of criminal justice purposes is set forth in RCW 82.14.340. It reads "Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section must be expended for criminal justice purposes. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system..."

Unlike a property tax, a sales tax is shared not only by those who reside in the county, but also by those visiting the county. In a November 2009 editorial the Tri-City Herald offered its opinion that "It (sales tax versus property tax) seemed like a fair way to find money for improvements to public safety."

Committee Members

Honorary Chairpersons:

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*Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
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Craig D. Eerkes
*President,
Sun Pacific Energy*

Steering Committee:

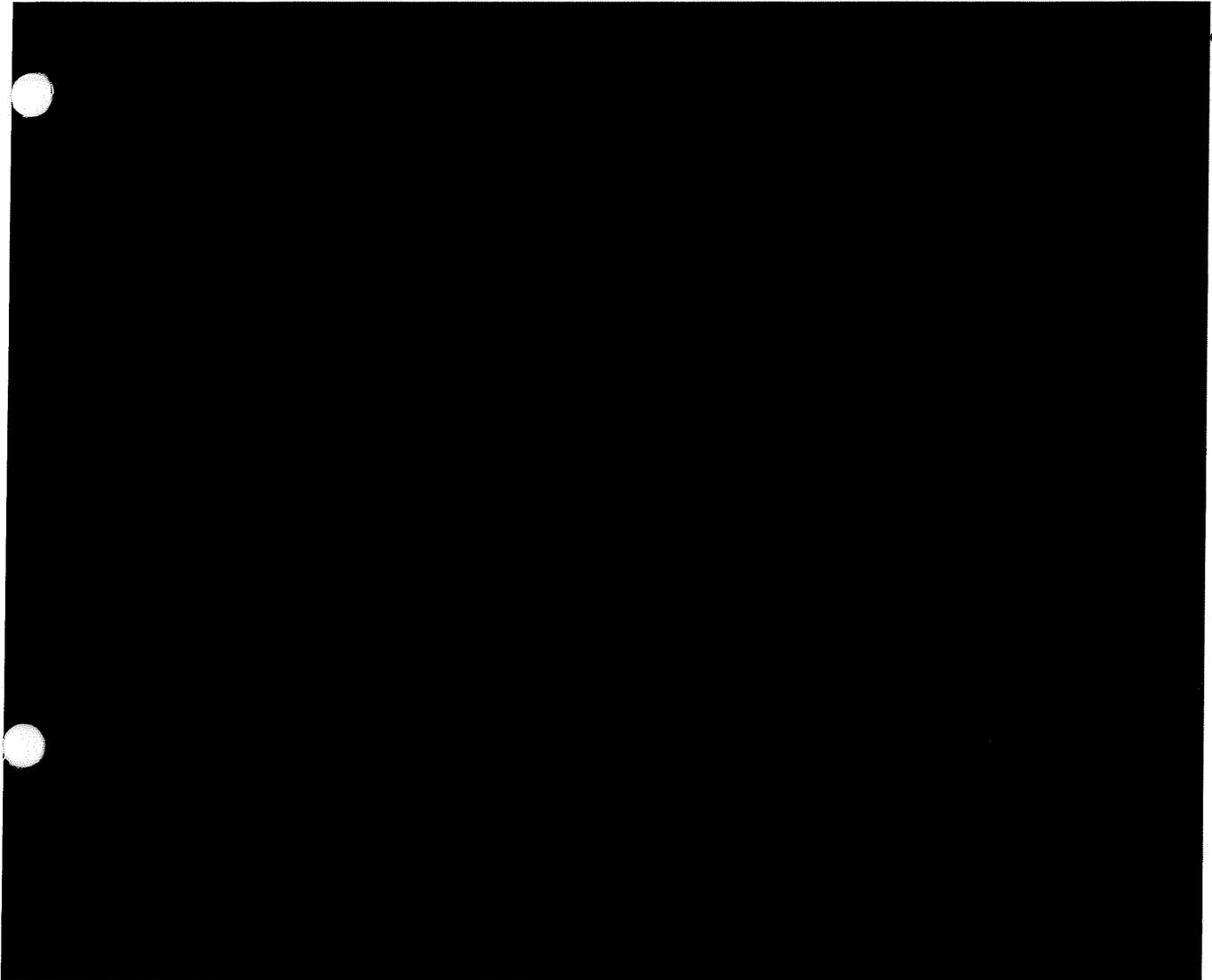
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Movement for a Ballot Measure

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Movement for a 2014 Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax Ballot Measure

The impetus to present a criminal justice sales tax to Benton County voters is based upon the need to obtain sustainable funding to aid the currently under-funded public safety function, and was encouraged by the success of the 2011 Franklin County effort (theirs was a 0.3% sales tax for 30 years).

The Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) was formed in September 2012. It was comprised of county residents approved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners. Their stated purpose was to operate fully independent of the Benton County Law and Justice Council, and/or any government entities represented by that council, to analyze and review all aspects of the Benton County public safety system. They were to make a recommendation to county commissioners on whether or not a criminal justice sales tax should be submitted to voters. If their analysis identified the need for a sales tax, they were asked to provide a recommendation on the amount.

In August 2013 the Advisory Committee recommended to county commissioners that a criminal justice sales tax in the amount of 0.3% (three pennies on a \$10 purchase) is needed to meet the county's current and future criminal justice needs. They recommended a ballot measure in that amount be placed before the voters of Benton County. The committee identified that a sales tax at that rate would generate a total annual funding source of from \$9 million to \$9.6 million. A breakdown of that total includes (low/high estimates shown):

- Benton County: \$5.4 million/ \$5.7 million
- Kennewick: \$1.8 million/ \$1.9 million
- Richland: \$1.2 million/ \$1.3 million
- West Richland: \$309,600/ \$330,200
- Prosser: \$140,400/ \$149,800
- Benton City: \$82,800/ \$88,300

The Advisory Committee concluded the identified funding will meet the current and future needs of the county and its municipalities.

County commissioners supported the idea of sending a measure to voters and asked the Benton County Law and Justice Council (BCLJC) to review the recommendations and prepare a resolution. The BCLJC spent several months researching the issue, having met with many city and county representatives and others who may be impacted by the measure. The BCLJC concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the need for the 0.3% sales tax, and prepared recommendations on how the revenue should be spent. The recommendations were then presented to and accepted by county commissioners on March 4, 2014.

After having been studied and researched for a year and a half by an independent citizen advisory committee and the Benton County Law and Justice Council, the ballot measure will be presented to Benton County voters during the August 5, 2014 primary election. The fate of the measure will be rightfully decided by the voters. Click [here](#) for the specifics of the ballot measure.

Committee Members

*Honorary
Chairpersons:*

Bill McCurley
*Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships*

Bill Lampson
*President,
Lampson International*

Kris Watkins
*President & CEO,
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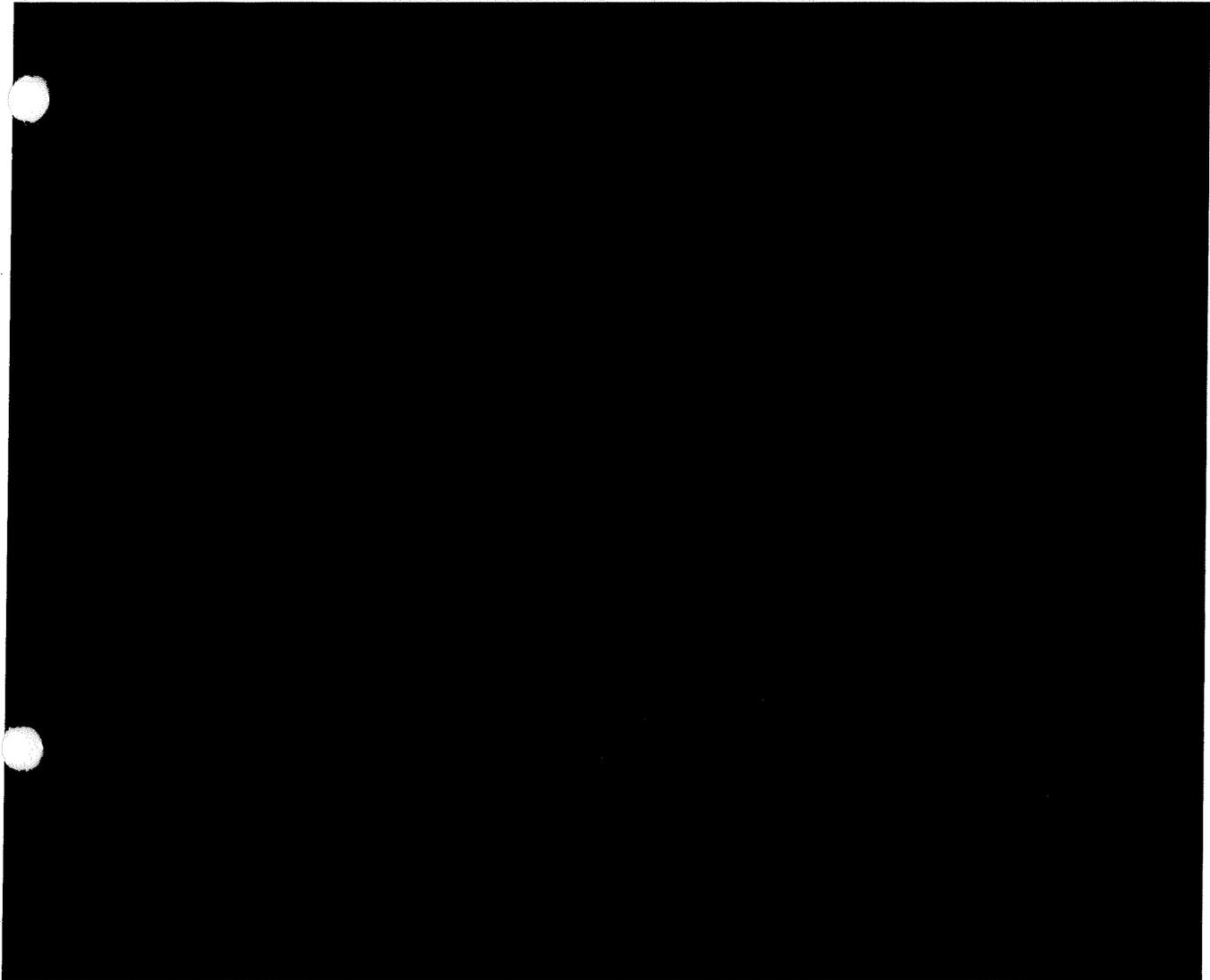
Craig D. Eerkes
*President,
Sun Pacific Energy*

*Steering
Committee:*

Ken Hohenberg
*Kennewick
Police Chief*

Andy Miller
*Benton County
Prosecutor*

Josie Delvin
*Benton County
Clerk*



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Ballot Measure Wording

[\[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION\]](#)

Ballot Measure Wording

Benton County Increase in Sales and Use Tax for Public Safety Needs

The Benton County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2014-259 that seeks to improve public safety including combating criminal gangs. This proposition would fund the hiring of additional police officers, corrections officers, and prosecutors; fund the Metro Drug Task Force and gang and crime prevention efforts; and fund court and clerk programs including a seventh Superior Court Judge and drug and mental health courts, by imposing a sales and use tax equal to three-tenths of one percent (three cents on a ten dollar purchase) with the tax expiring December 31, 2024. Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

Committee Members

Honorary Chairpersons:

Bill McCurley
*Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships*

Bill Lampson
*President,
Lampson International*

Kris Watkins
*President & CEO,
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*President,
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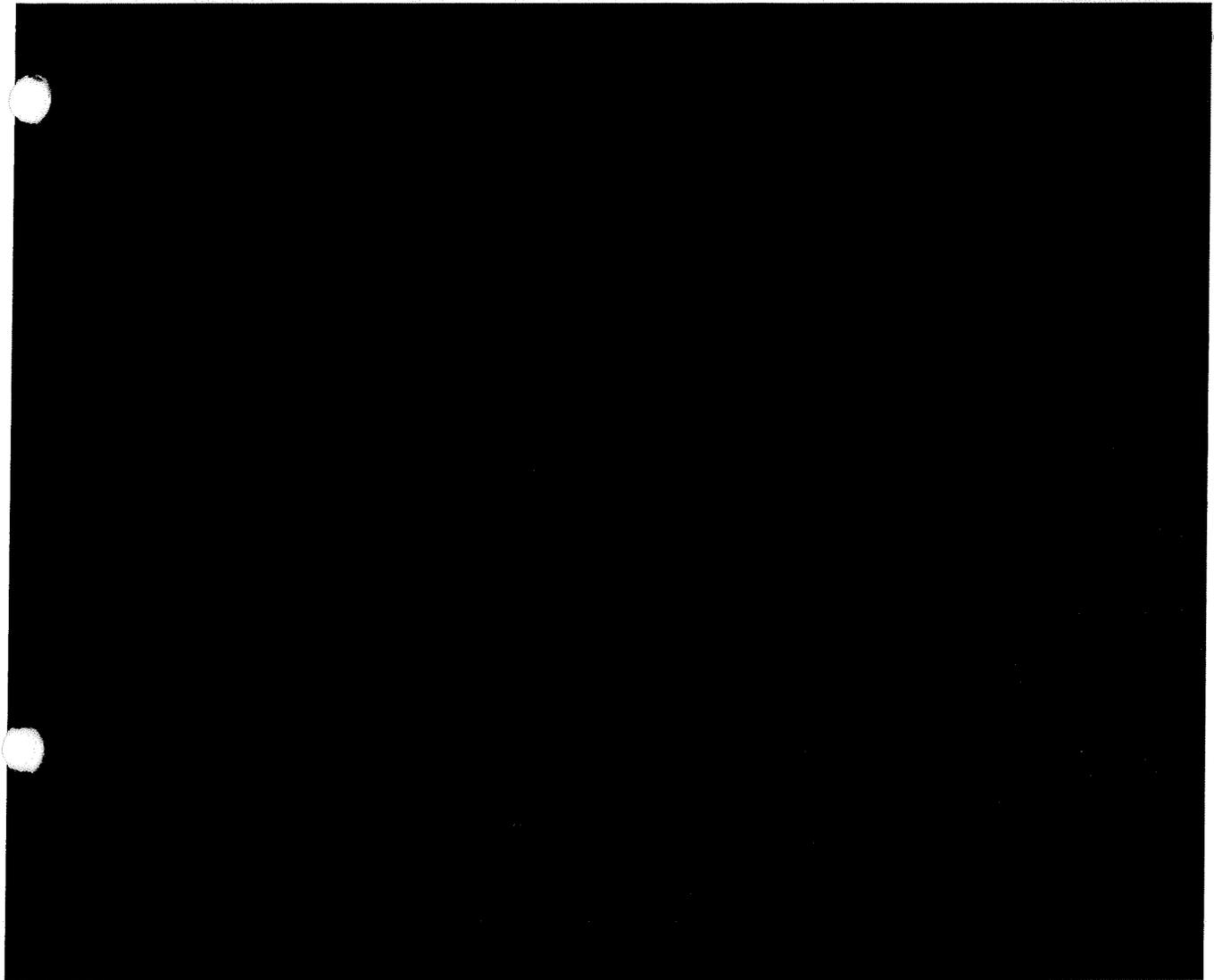
Steering Committee:

Ken Hohenberg
*Kennewick
Police Chief*

Andy Miller
*Benton County
Prosecutor*

Josie Delvin
*Benton County
Clerk*

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Resolution Approved by Benton County Commissioners

RESOLUTION 2014 259

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF PLACEMENT ON THE BALLOT OF A PROPOSITION FOR AN INCREASE IN SALES AND USE TAX FOR FUNDING PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS IN BENTON COUNTY,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 82.14.450 in 2003 to authorize county legislative authorities to submit propositions to the voters that would authorize an increase in local sales and use tax by up to three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax; and

WHEREAS, the tax referenced above shall not apply to the retail sales or use of motor vehicles or the first 36 months of a lease thereof; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 requires that at least one-third of the revenues from such a tax be used for specified criminal justice purposes and that the County retain 60% of said revenues and 40% be distributed to the cities therein based on relative populations; and

WHEREAS, criminal activity in Benton County has increased in both sophistication and complexity in recent years, requiring a substantially greater investment of time and resources by the local criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the legislature expressly found when it passed RCW 82.14.450 that local governments face enormous challenges in the funding of criminal justice services; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the number of committed crimes impacts all facets of the criminal justice system, including the local police departments and Benton County Sheriff's Office, the County Prosecutor's Office and city attorney's offices, the local public defense system, District and Superior Courts, the Coroner's Office and the County Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the crimes committed in Benton County are committed by persons with drug, alcohol and/or mental problems, or who are involved in criminal gang activity or lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Benton County has learned from the experience of its drug court and the experiences of other jurisdictions with their mental health courts that such programs can reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, approximately 79 percent of the County's general fund budget, which are the funds that over which the County has discretionary control, go to law enforcement and other criminal justice related services; and

WHEREAS, Benton County and the cities within it have collectively lost millions of dollars annually in funding from the State that previously subsidized County/city law and justice budgets due to the elimination of the motor vehicle excise tax; and

WHEREAS, the County and cities' costs for law enforcement personnel salaries, benefits and operations of law enforcement departments are increasing at a rate equal to and often higher than the local consumer price index, causing the gap between funds available and funds needed for law enforcement to widen each year; and

Committee Members

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McCurley Integrity
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Kris Watkins
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WHEREAS, it is for reasons such as the above that the legislature passed RCW 82.14.450; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have received reports from a volunteer Citizen's Advisory Committee indicating that there is a need for additional funding for the law and justice system within Benton County; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office advises that the proposed ballot title included in Resolution 2014-206 concerning this same subject matter should be revised; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney, the Benton County Superior Court Administrator, the Benton County Clerk, and the police chiefs from each city within the County have all recommended that the Board call for an election on the imposition of the tax referenced herein; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 states that the passage of this measure requires over 50% approval at a primary or general election, and the next primary election is August 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the best interests of the people of Benton County would be served by submitting to the affected voters the determination of whether or not to authorize a sales and use tax to fund the needs within the criminal justice; **NOW THEREFORE**,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Benton County Commissioners that a county-wide election be held on August 5, 2014 for the purpose of submitting to the affected voters the determination of whether or not to authorize a sales and use tax increase at the rate of three-tenth of one percent (0.3%) to be levied upon the adoption of an implementing ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Resolution 2014-206 is hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the revenue from such tax shall only be utilized by the County and the cities therein for the purposes set forth in the ballot proposition set forth below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Benton County Auditor is hereby requested to place a proposition on the August 5, 2014 ballot in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. ____

BENTON COUNTY INCREASE IN LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

The Benton County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2014-259 that seeks to improve public safety including combating criminal gangs. This proposition would fund the hiring of additional police officers, corrections officers, and prosecutors; fund the Metro Drug Task Force and gang and crime prevention efforts; and fund court and clerk programs including a seventh Superior Court Judge and drug and mental health courts, by imposing a sales and use tax equal to three-tenths of one percent (three cents on a ten dollar purchase) with the tax expiring December 31, 2024. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED.....[]
REJECTED.....[]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Auditor of Benton County in order that the foregoing proposition be placed on the ballot and submitted to the voters of the County for the primary election to be held on August 5, 2014.

Dated this 25 day of March, 2014.

James Beaver
Chairman of the Board

Jerome Delvin
Member

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE DIVISION

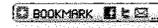
Shon Small
Member

Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
of Benton County, Washington

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

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Anticipated Revenue

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Anticipated Revenue

Sixty percent (60%) of the money received must be retained by the county and forty percent (40%) must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county. The Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee identified the following estimates of revenue to be generated by this measure:

- Benton County: \$5.4 million/ \$5.7 million
- Kennewick: \$1.8 million/ \$1.9 million
- Richland: \$1.2 million/ \$1.3 million
- West Richland: \$309,600/ \$330,200
- Prosser: \$140,400/ \$149,800
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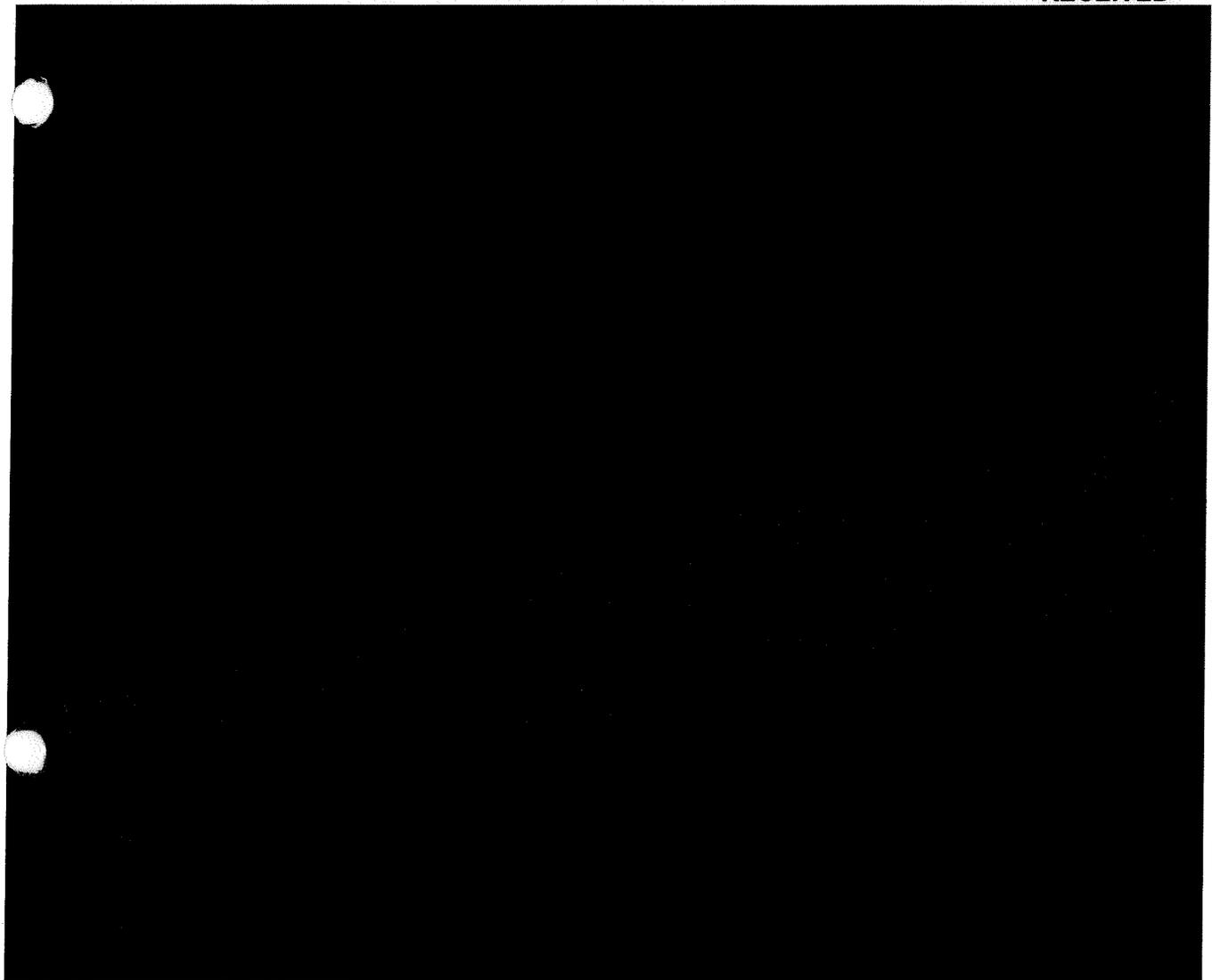
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How the Revenue will be Spent

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The municipalities and Benton County Departments have declared their intent to spend the Public Safety Sales Tax on the following items and/or programs. Anticipated revenue and expenses are estimates only.

Jurisdiction/Departments	Funding Details	Total Funding Proposal
Municipalities		
Kennewick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 sworn positions • 1 Assistant City Attorney position • 2 support staff positions 	\$1,931,406
Richland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sworn positions • 3 support staff positions 	\$1,224,000
West Richland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 sworn positions 	\$330,200
Prosser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 sworn position • 0.8 support staff • Other costs including tech and training 	\$140,400
Benton County		
County Clerk's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 FTE Deputy Clerks • IT and other support for Deputy Clerks 	\$117,476
Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (7th) superior Court Judge position • 0.5 FTE Court Commissioner • Adult Drug Court funding • SAP program (juvenile probation) • Juvenile Drug Court • Functional Family Therapy (juvenile) 	\$309,900 \$261,571 (juvenile)
District Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge ProTem • Professional Services • Jury fees • Print bindery • Additional staff (increase PT and 1.0 FTE) • IT equipment • Miscellaneous 	\$159,300
Coroner's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 FTE Deputy Coroner 	\$72,000
Sheriff's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 sworn positions • 2 support staff • 2 jail booking staff (fully county funded) • 4 corrections staff (fully county funded) • Inmate management system • Radio maintenance 	\$1,929,016
Prosecutor's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional felony Deputy Prosecutor • Additional appellate Deputy Prosecutor • Adult felony staff position 	\$264,289
Public Defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff defender in Superior Court unit • Additional contract defender in District Court unit • 1.0 FTE legal assistant • 1.0 FTE office support • Convert Office Manager to supervisory position 	\$215,330
Gang and Crime Prevention & Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with Boys & Girls Club (after-school programs for gang prevention and youth empowerment) and other similar programs • Partnership with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place for crime prevention and intervention services for homeless at-risk youth • Nurse-Family Partnership program for Benton County residents (Health 	\$500,00(Partnership w/Boys & Girls Club and other programs) \$50,000(Partnership with Safe Harbor/ My Friend's Place) \$303,487 (Nurse-Family Partnership)

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Kennewick
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Benton County
Prosecutor

Josie Delvin
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	Department)	
Continue funding for Metro Drug Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of Benton County Prosecutor salary/benefits • 75% of salary/benefits for two support positions • 100% of additional Benton County Metro Detective and related equipment (bringing back to previously funded two-person strength) 	\$400,000
Multi-Departmental Mental Health Court & Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time District Court Commissioner/Judge ProTem & Probation Officer, part-time deputy prosecutor and part-time public defender (for Mental Health Court) • Chemical Dependency Professional • Peer Support Specialist • Treatment cost support for participants (supplementing insurance where needed and providing access for uninsured participants) • Case management services (serving both Mental Health Court and mental health diversion/triage) 	\$600,000
Reserve Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of additional criminal justice programs such as: • Reduction of jail expenses • Mental Health services for jail inmates • Re-entry services and programming for jail inmates 	\$367,631

Total estimated Municipality Expenses: \$3,626,006
 Estimated funding for municipalities at 0.3%: \$3,626,006

Total estimated Benton County Departments Expenses: \$5,550,000
 Estimated funding for Benton County at 0.3%: \$5,550,000

This data was obtained from the proposal submitted to Benton County Commissioners by the Law and Justice Council.

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What Your Money Gets You

[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]

What you pay	What you receive for your money
0.3% sales tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 additional police officers • 1 additional Superior Court Judge • 2 additional Deputy Prosecutors • 1 additional Assistant City Attorney • Continued funding for the Metro Drug Task Force • Continued funding for Drug Courts • Creation of a Mental Health Court • Creation of new gang prevention and intervention programs
or	
3 pennies on a \$10 purchase	
or	
\$87 annually per family*	

**Projection by the Washington State Department of Revenue on what a Benton County family with average median income will pay annually based upon a 0.3% sales tax*

There is no better deal for your money.

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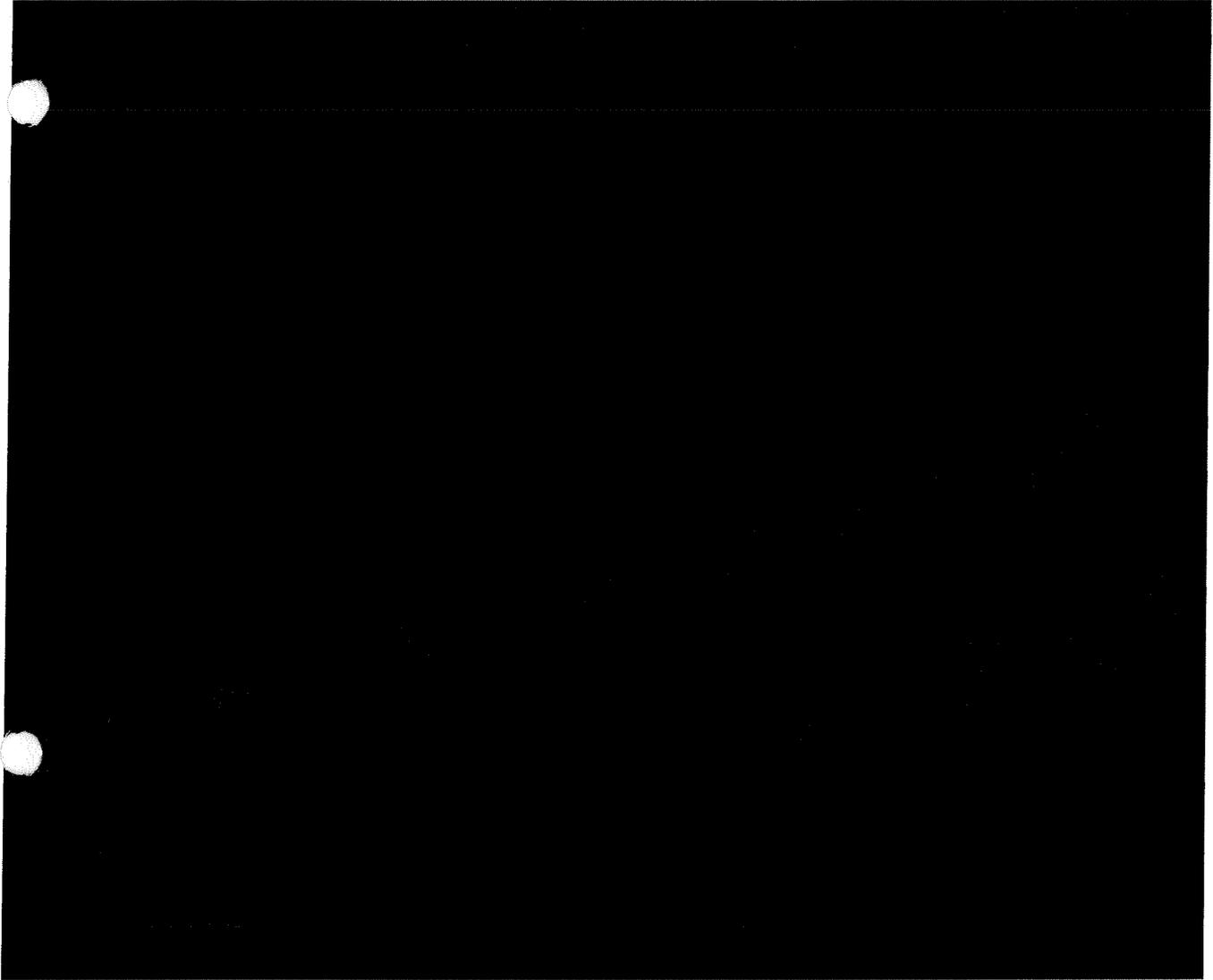
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Tax Rate Comparisons

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With the 0.3% increase to our sales tax as a result of this measure, we would rank as shown below to the other cities in our state. It should be noted that of the totals shown below, .065 is due to the mandatory state sales tax rate.

Source of information: Washington State Department of Revenue

City	Combined Total Sales Tax Rate
Mill Creek	.096
Auburn	.095
Bellevue	.095
Bothell	.095
Burien	.095
Des Moines	.095
Federal Way	.095
Issaquah	.095
Kent	.095
Kirkland	.095
Lynnwood	.095
Mercer Island	.095
Mountlake Terrace	.095
Redmond	.095
Renton	.095
Seattle	.095
Tacoma	.095
Tukwila	.095
Woodinville	.095
Puyallup	.094
Everett	.092
Port Townsend	.090
Walla Walla	.089
Olympia	.088
Bainbridge Island	.087
Bellingham	.087
Bremerton	.087
Cheney	.087
College Place	.087
Lacey	.087
Medical Lake	.087
Millwood	.087
Monroe	.087
Oak Harbor	.087
Port Orchard	.087
Spokane	.087
Spokane Valley	.087
Tumwater	.087
Yelm	.087
Benton City	.086
Kennewick	.086
Pasco	.086
Prosser	.086
Richland	.086
West Richland	.086
Anacortes	.085
Gig Harbor	.085
Hoquiam	.085
Mount Vernon	.085
Sedro-Woolley	.085

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West Port	.085
Vancouver	.084
Wenatchee	.084
Chelan	.082
Okanogan	.082
Twisp	.082
Yakima	.082
Union Gap	.081
Ellensburg	.080
Grandview	.079
Moses Lake	.079
Sunnyside	.079
Pullman	.078
Othello	.077

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All Benton County Residents

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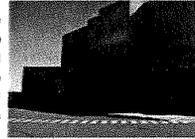
Sixty percent of the monies generated from the Public Safety Sales Tax will be devoted to Benton County. Any programs funded by these monies will benefit all residents of the county. The county has declared funding from the tax to be used for the following:

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 7 commissioned deputies, 2 support staff, 2 jail booking staff, 4 corrections staff, obtain an inmate management system, and maintain radio operations. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$1,929,016.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing active patrolling and 24-hour response to all calls for service in the 1,722 square miles of Benton County. By the end of 2012 the Patrol Division responded to nearly 41,000 calls for service, which is a 19% increase over the last five years combined. From 1995 to 2012 our calls for service have increased 110.79%. The Sheriff's Office has been able to add only two deputies to Patrol staffing, solely dedicated to Patrol, since 1993.



In 2011, the Benton County Sheriff's Office received additional funding for four deputies to create a very successful Gang Enforcement Team. In 2012 this team served 800 arrest warrants, filed 548 misdemeanor charges, 269 felony charges, incarcerated 441 suspects, executed 145 search warrants and seized 33 dangerous weapons. Despite their success, there is no guaranteed funding to maintain this unit and our pro-active approach to reduce criminal gang violence. In addition, this unit does not respond to routine calls, but prioritizes its focus on gang-related issues. The burden of responding to calls for service remains on the shoulders of the patrol deputies. When the calls increase significantly, the deputies are stretched thinner thereby influencing their effectiveness and the safety for themselves and citizens.

Investigations involving search and seizure have become much more complex and time consuming. The time it takes deputies to complete these types of investigations has significantly increased, essentially taking a deputy out of service (and off of patrol activities and response) for prolonged periods of time. With cellular phone (smart phone) technology, and the electronic evidence within, we have to maintain a full time detective that focuses solely on computer/cellular phone forensic analysis.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is also responsible for all operations and management of the Benton County Jail. In 2013/2014 the Benton County Sheriff's Office experienced a significant reduction in our operating budget, which resulted in significant cuts to jail staffing. Additional law enforcement officers hired by our city partners will add to the number of inmates booked and released from our jail. Inmate population increases will result in the need for additional Corrections Officers to effectively manage the inmate population, maintaining the safety of the inmates and liability to the County. An increase in the inmate population will also impact the courts, thus resulting in an increase in inmates being supervised in transit to and from the courtrooms.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing the highest quality law enforcement services to the people who live, work and visit our county. With the symbiotic and cooperative relationships involving our city partners, the Tri-Cities is a safe place to live, work and visit. The Public Safety Sales Tax will help keep it that way.

METRO DRUG TASK FORCE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to continue funding for the Metro Drug Task Force, including paying for all costs of additional Benton County Metro Detectives and related equipment, all costs for a Deputy Prosecutor, and partial costs for 2 support staff positions. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$400,000.

Explanation for the Need:

The Tri-City Metro Drug Task Force is comprised of Detectives from the Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, and West Richland Police Departments as well as the Benton and Franklin County Sheriff's Offices. This highly effective Drug Task Force is a cooperative effort between all of our local jurisdictions and first started in 1988. The Task Force targets higher level drug dealers and works in conjunction with other Drug Task Forces throughout the State of Washington. The Metro Drug Task Force has been credited for reducing violent crime surrounding the sale and use of narcotics in the Tri-Cities. The Task Force was funded through a federal grant (Byrne Grant Funding). During the last ten years, due to the economic downturn, the federal funding has continued to diminished, creating a funding risk to support the task force.

Over the past 10 years the City of Richland and the Benton County Sheriff's Office had to remove a Detective from the unit due to budget constraints in their home agencies.

The Public Safety Sales Tax will fully fund a Benton County Deputy Prosecutor, a second Benton County Detective, ¼ funding for the two support staff and related equipment and training due to the loss of federal funding. The Metro Drug Task Force continues to be an effective strategy in reducing violent crime in the Tri-Cities. The Public Safety Sales Tax will ensure continuation of this important strategy.

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BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 felony Deputy Prosecutor, 1 appellate Deputy Prosecutor, and an adult felony staff position. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$264,289.

Explanation for the Need:

There have been a dramatic increase in the number of gang cases in the past few years. The prosecution of gang cases is much more complex and time demanding than normal criminal prosecutions. One reason is that the victims and witnesses to gang crimes are often rival gang members or members of the same gang. While they may sometimes make initial statements to law enforcement officers it is very rare that they will testify. If they are compelled to testify they usually will not testify truthfully. Sometimes the gang member may have charges pending against him/her and therefore the prosecutor has to make decisions as to immunity or plea agreement for the gang witness. In that case the prosecutor must work with law enforcement to make sure there is corroboration of the gang member's testimony. If the victim or witness is not a gang member they are often afraid to cooperate with the law enforcement investigation or prosecution. The prosecutor must spend time with that witness to convince the witness to testify or look at alternative ways to obtain the witness. In all gang cases it is important to obtain corroborating evidence through search warrants, medical records, phone records and other items. Finally, given the complex nature of gang membership in our area, it is necessary to have a prosecutor with background and knowledge on local gang issues and gang membership. Law enforcement has recognized similar issues by creation of special units such as the Benton County Sheriff's office's gang unit and Kennewick Police Department's Criminal Apprehension team. The public safety tax would allow for a similar resource for the prosecutor's office, a gang prosecutor who would be devoted full time to the specialization of gang prosecutions

Also in gang, other violent crime prosecutions, drug delivery prosecutions and prosecution of sex crimes we are seeing more and more appeal issues. Virtually every criminal convicted of a serious crime is appealing the conviction. Other counties the size of Benton County have full time appellate prosecutors. Not only does having an appellate prosecutor free up the other prosecutors to spend prosecuting violent crimes it also creates expertise in the office for knowing what legal issues to avoid at trial and decrease the chance of a conviction being overturned on appeal

Finally, the increase in serious crime and gang activity has increased the need to arrest the violent criminal and gang criminal. However, the strict rules of requiring formal charges within a short time of arrest have limited that ability. The addition of a support staff to timely process arrests and then do follow up on violent crime prosecutions is as important as the addition of a deputy prosecutor.

GANG AND CRIME PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to implement gang and crime prevention and intervention methods by partnering with the Boys and Girls Club for after-school gang prevention and intervention and youth empowerment programs, and other programs, partnering with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place for crime prevention and intervention services for homeless at-risk youth, and partnering with Nurse-Family programs through the Health Department. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$600,000 for the Boys and Girls Club partnership, \$50,000 for the Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place partnership, and \$303,487 for the Nurse-Family partnership.

Explanation for the Need:

It is important to fight crime by arresting the criminals and holding them accountable for their actions. In the long run, it is better for the victim and cheaper for taxpayers to prevent the crime before it happens. Research has shown that crime prevention programs can reduce crime. Three areas of gang and crime prevention for our community have been identified; gang prevention, nurse family partnership, and case management for homeless youth.

Gang Prevention: Gang membership and gang crime in Benton County is beginning with middle school and sometimes elementary school aged youth. Certain youth are at high risk of becoming involved in gangs, especially during times when the youth is not in school and while parents are at work. The Boys and Girls Club has a comprehensive gang prevention proposal that uses effective techniques and strategies to direct at-risk youth to positive alternatives. It includes a referral network with courts, police, schools, social service agencies as well as direct outreach to identify at risk youth and mainstream them into program activities which includes supervision. The proposal includes case management and services. It includes monthly reviews for each youth including club involvement, school performance, family involvement and any court involvement. An independent evaluation of the model for this program was conducted by Public/Private Ventures and its findings are available at www.ppv.org

Nurse Family Partnership: Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence based program that partners first time, low income mothers with nurse home visitors. A specially trained nurse visits moms throughout their pregnancy and until their baby turns two years old. The proposal would allow the Benton-Franklin County Public Health district to hire three specially trained public health nurses which could assume a total caseload of 75 families. There has been 35 years of extensive research on Nurse-Family Partnerships including a recent study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (November 2013) and the PIRE report of Life Status and Financial Outcomes of Nurse-Family Partnership. It found that enrolling 1000 low income families into NFP would prevent 286 violent crimes, 1,853 property and public order crimes and 204 years of youth substance abuse.

Homeless Youth: Law Enforcement and the Juvenile Justice Center have identified a correlation between homeless youth and their risk or record for criminal behavior. Currently Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place provides a shelter for homeless youth and works with Juvenile Court and probation with youth who are currently homeless. This proposal would include approximately \$50,000 to provide case management and other services for homeless youth who are identified as being at-risk to commit crime.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT AND DIVERSION

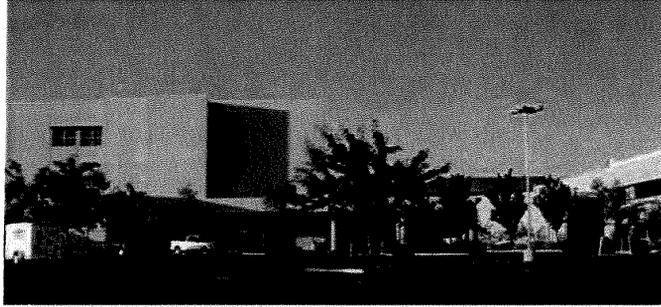
Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to implement a Mental Health Court program. Funding will be used to pay for 1 District Court Judge, 1 Probation Officer, 1 Deputy Prosecutor, 1 Public Defender, 1 chemical dependency professional, case management services and treatment costs for participants (supplementing insurance when needed and providing access for uninsured). The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$800,000.

Explanation for the Need:

Currently many crimes in Benton County are being committed by people who have mental health issues. Many of these individuals would not commit the crimes if they were receiving treatment, case management and medication services. This proposal includes two proposals that would provide for supervision and treatment for people with mental illness issues. These proposals do not include criminals who have committed violent or sex crimes but are designed for those who have committed non-violent crimes.

RCW 10.31.110 allows law enforcement officers to take a person who may suffer from a mental disorder and has committed a non-felony and non-serious offense to a triage facility instead of jail. The individual would then obtain treatment and supervision instead of going to jail and court. The proposal includes funding for case management and supervision for those offenders and includes some money to provide mental health treatment when the case manager cannot find available treatment.

The proposal includes a mental health court. This would be modeled on other mental health courts in the state and on the successful drug court in Benton County. An individual who is charged with a non-violent and non-felony crime and who may suffer from a mental disorder that may have caused the crime would be placed in mental health court. Case management, treatment and other services are provided to the individual. The Court supervises the individual's progress and compliance with treatment and other conditions. If the individual completes the treatment and supervision, the case is dismissed and the defendant does not have to go to jail. Research has shown that mental health courts reduce the likelihood that the individual will commit another crime and save the taxpayers money by avoiding expensive jail sentences. The program provides part time funding for a District Court Judge, prosecutor and defender to participate in the drug court program. However, the majority of the funding goes to case management and supervision of the offender with some treatment funds for those who cannot otherwise afford or obtain the treatment.



BENTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 Superior Court Judge, 1 part-time Court Commissioner, and funding for the Adult Drug Court, fully fund the Juvenile Drug Court, re-implementation of the Selective Aggressive Probation (SAP) program (used to monitor high-risk youth on juvenile probation), and funding for juvenile functional family therapy. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$309,900 for adult services, and \$261,571 for juvenile services.

Explanation for the Need:

The Superior Court is a bi-county judicial district with six elected judges and two and one-half court commissioners serving both Benton and Franklin Counties. The Superior Court is a general jurisdiction trial court handling an assortment of cases, including but not limited to criminal, civil, domestic (divorce/paternity), adoption, probate, mental illness, domestic violence, lower court appeals, administrative law reviews, juvenile offender and juvenile dependency. The 2013 State Office of Court Administration's full year caseload report identified 7,865 cases filed in Benton County and 3,220 cases filed in Franklin County. Of those cases 1,418 were Benton County criminal case filings and 593 were Franklin County criminal case filings. In 2013 the Superior Court held a total of 284 trials, 60,343 proceedings and completed 11,512 cases. As the population continues to grow there will be an increased need for law enforcement officers. As law enforcement officers are added to the local law enforcement agencies more court cases will be generated adding to the court's already burdened system.

The 2012 Judicial Needs Estimate, calculated by the Washington State Office of Court Administration, states an estimated need of 9.87 judicial officers for Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court. The Court is currently staffed at 8.50 judicial officers. Our community has continued to grow in population even through a struggling economy which in turn has added an extra burden on government. Population growth has impacted the courts in all case types from adoptions to divorces to contract disputes to criminal activity. Additionally, law enforcement is putting an extra emphasis on eliminating gang activity which has also increased the need for judicial officers. The court, with support of the local County Commissioners, was successful in securing the allocation of an additional judicial officer as well as state funding for the position. The state funds one-half of the judicial position and all related benefits. Franklin County has also allocated funds to fill the position beginning July of 2014.

Counties only pay one-half of the salary of a Superior Court judge. The other one-half, together with fringe benefits and taxes, is paid by the state. The county cost for a full-time Superior Court Judge is only \$75,904.50. Franklin County is responsible for about one-third of that portion. Thus, the cost to Benton County tax payers for their share of a Superior Court Judge is about \$51,000.00. That cost will easily be offset by jail costs that will be avoided. The Benton County jail estimated billable bed day rate for 2014 is projected at about \$63.72 per day to house a prisoner while the prisoner is waiting to be sentenced to the Department of Corrections. Current workloads cause delays in criminal sentencing of up to 20 days. The cost per defendant for a 20-day delay is estimated to be \$1,274.40. In 2012 there were approximately 50 defendants with delayed sentencing to state institutions. Thus, the addition of a seventh judge will save the taxpayers up to \$63,720.00, annually, based on delays in sentencing alone. Other efficiencies will be realized for civil as well as criminal litigants.

The Court is also requesting to increase the part-time Court Commissioner position from approximately .50 FTE to 1 FTE enabling the Court Commissioner to be available for non-criminal hearings, dockets and settlement conferences due to the increased judicial time needed for criminal matters and trials. This increased position will also assist with the Legal Financial Obligations (LFO) and child support dockets. The LFO docket has proven to recoup a substantial increase in paid fines, fees and restitution since its inception. The cost of the increased Court Commissioner time will be offset by increased collections.

In January of 2003 Benton County funded a pilot Adult Drug Court Program and in September of 2003 the Superior Court was awarded a 3-year federally funded grant to operate a Bi-County Adult Drug Court Program serving approximately 45-50 individuals. The grant concluded in February of 2007 and to date no on-going sustainability funding has been identified. Currently the Court has a reduced level Adult Drug Court serving 30 participants.

The Adult Drug Court is available to those individuals charged with a first time drug offense and who qualify under the drug court criteria. The individuals are required to adhere to strict program requirements including weekly court hearings, counseling, treatment, self-improvement (employment, schooling, parenting classes, etc.) and upon completion of the program and payment of the drug court fees, their felony charge is dismissed. The Drug Court is comprised of a Superior Court Judge, a Deputy Prosecutor from each county, a defense attorney, a substance abuse counselor, law enforcement representative, Drug Court Coordinator and Case Manager.

Statistically based studies have proven that drug courts nationwide reduce felony recidivism and create a long-term cost savings to not only the county, but the community and state as well. Savings are realized in reduced jail costs, social service and medical costs, foster care costs, and long-term costs related to drug addicted babies born to drug addicts. Drug Courts return contributing members of society back into the community and set an example of sobriety for future generations.

The Benton and Franklin Juvenile Justice Center (BFJJC) adjudicates all legal matters concerning children 0-18 years of age. Juvenile proceedings are part of the Superior Court of Washington scheduled through the Legal Process Unit. Juvenile offenders may, based on their prior criminal history and alleged or adjudicated offense be referred to Diversion or Community Supervision Units. Offenders may also be held in detention prior to, or following court hearings. The BFJJC includes a 24/7 secure detention facility and detention alternative programming. Youth who are dependent, at-risk and truant also receive formal court services and intervention programming. The Bi-County at-risk youth population age 10-17 has continued to grow over the last five years. In 2012, law enforcement agencies from both counties referred 2,069 cases to juvenile court. Benton County agencies comprised the majority (74%) of the referrals. As the at-risk youth population continues to increase and additional law enforcement officers are added to local agencies the number of referrals to juvenile court and the demand for already scarce resources will increase.

In 2010, the Court responding to budget reductions had to reduce the amount of time that youth are supervised in the community. Many youth who should have received 6 to 12 months of probation are only being placed on 3 months of probation. Probation Counselors are much less effective at intervening with youth who commit crime because of the very limited time they have to work with youth and families. Additionally, the limited time on supervision often does not allow for youth to be involved in evidenced based programming such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT).

Crimes involving gang involved youth continue to create concern in this community. Currently, 25% of youth on probation are gang involved, 50% of the youth committed to state custody are gang involved and 63% of the youth declined to adult court are gang involved. In addition, 70% of the youth assigned to the Selective Aggressive Probation (SAP) program are gang involved. The addition of Juvenile Probation Counselor to the SAP program will provide this court the ability to increase the SAP caseload from 15 to 30-40 youth. In addition, we will also be able to increase suppression and intervention efforts with gang involved youth and begin to increase time on supervision for select youth.

The Juvenile Drug Court program impacts the long term recidivism rates of juvenile offenders and saves the Counties and State funding over time. Juvenile Drug court provides intensive supervision, accountability, support and treatment for youth that have exhibited criminal behavior due to substance abuse and have met the criteria established by the drug court. The program enjoys wide community support and is supported by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in both counties. Currently the program is only funded by Benton County and serves 12 youth. We would like to increase the number to 25 youth. The increase in funding would include a Juvenile Probation Counselor III, and increased costs for urinalysis testing, contracted tracking services and court time.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an evidence based program proven to reduce recidivism among our higher risk juvenile offenders whose criminogenic needs match to the intervention. Currently the BFJJC has an in-house FFT therapist and contracts with two additional FFT therapists in the community. The program serves a total of 48 families each year. Current state funding is restrictive and does not accommodate the demand. We have the need and ability to serve another 25 families in this community. The addition of county funding would not only increase capacity but allow the court greater flexibility in serving high risk youth in an early intervention capacity.

BENTON COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 2 Deputy Clerks and fund support operations. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$117,476.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Clerk is required to attend all hearings scheduled in Benton County Superior Court. The Clerk, by statute, is the keeper of the records for Benton County Superior Court and is responsible for filing and maintaining all case files, documents, exhibits and search warrants for adult and juvenile felony cases.

The addition of officers throughout Benton County will inevitably increase the amount of filings and hearings in the Clerks office. In addition to the officers, there is the potential for additional deputy prosecutors and judicial officers. It is clear that the addition of judicial officers will increase the number of courtrooms that must be staffed by the Clerk's office.

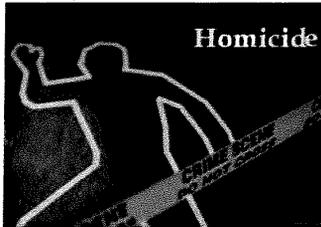
Two other areas in the Clerk's office that will see an increase are the jury department and the front counter. One of the additional deputy clerk's will be utilized to ease the congestion at the front counter providing better service to the general public.

BENTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to fund 1 Judge Protem position, fund additional support staff, fund professional services, jury fees, and fund equipment purchases. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$159,300.

Explanation for the Need:

District Court processes all infraction, misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor charges from all the law enforcement agencies in Benton County. The costs to perform these services have increased yearly without any budgetary provisions. With the future increase in police officers it will be necessary to increase District Court staff to handle the additional workload. The Public Safety Sales tax will help pay for interpreter services, jury costs, printing of court forms and a judge pro-tem.



BENTON COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 Deputy Coroner. The tax will fund this position at an annual cost estimated to be \$72,000.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Coroner's Office is tasked with determining the cause and manner of death for individuals who die in unusual, violent or suspicious circumstances. The office provides county-wide coverage with the elected coroner, one full-time employee and two part-time employees.

There has been a significant increase in coroner deaths and investigations over the past several years. In 2005 there were 838 coroner deaths and 258 investigations. By 2012 the number of deaths had risen to 986 and there were 443 investigations.

The Public Safety Sales Tax will provide funding for an under-staffed office, allow for increased training, better serve families of the deceased, and allow for work on accreditation by the WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENSE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 staff defender in Superior Court, 1 contract defender in District Court, 1 legal assistant, 1 support staff member, and convert the Office Manager to a supervisory position. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$215,330.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Office of Public Defense ("OPD") provides public defense services to all cases in Benton County District and Superior Courts (including Juvenile Court) where public defense is mandated by state law or the Constitution. While this mostly consists of criminal cases, public defense services are also provided on certain civil and specialty cases including mental health involuntary treatment, child support contempt, juvenile dependency actions, and Drug Court cases.

In recent years, the caseload at OPD has averaged in excess of 5,500 adult cases. OPD provides public defense representation through a combination of Staff Defenders and contracted private attorneys.

The proposed funding to OPD is based on the following factors:

Anticipated increase in caseload: If the ballot measure is approved, there will be a substantial increase in line-level law enforcement staffing in Benton County. Between the municipal agencies and the Sheriff's Office, the anticipated increase would total 32 officers and deputies. While there would probably be some variance in the assignments of these 32 personnel, the majority of them would likely be assigned to patrol duties. With an increase in law enforcement personnel of this significance, the opportunities for pro-active policing is sure to go up, resulting in a larger volume of criminal case filings and more cases for which OPD will be required to provide public defense services.

Increasing number of Staff Defenders: OPD has been increasing the number of Staff Defenders employed in the office in recent years. This has allowed for improved flexibility and responsiveness in dealing with case representation issues and, of significant fiscal benefit to the County, has allowed a greater number of homicide cases to be handled "in-house" (thereby avoiding the \$75 per hour charge that is paid to contract attorneys for such cases). At the same time, OPD's administrative duties have increased substantially because of, among other things, increased adult responsibilities (spurred by new Public Defense Standards and changes in contract compensation structures) and an ongoing cost-saving paperless initiative in the office. Additional support staff is very important in making sure that OPD's Staff Defenders can be effective in doing their jobs and OPD can continue to fulfill its administrative oversight mandates.

RESERVE FUND

Benton County has declared their intent to use any remaining monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to help reduce jail expenses, mental health services for jail inmates, and re-entry services and programming for jail inmates. The tax will fund these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$367,631.

Explanation for the Need:

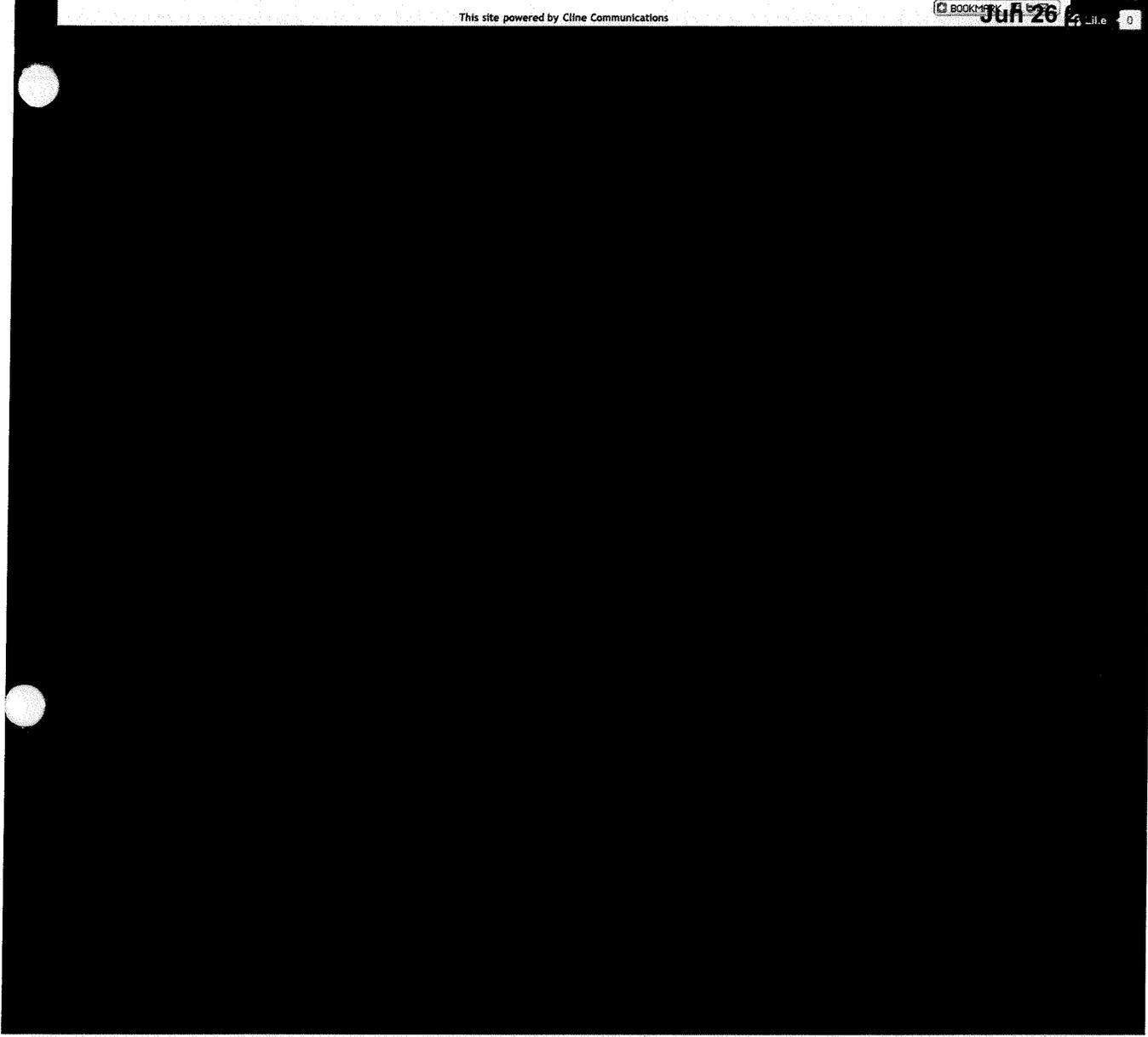
Correctional facilities are not typically designed or staffed for handling inmates with mental health issues. The Benton County Jail has experienced a tremendous increase in the number of inmates who suffer from mental health issues. These inmates require special services, housing medications, monitoring and uniquely trained staff.

Re-entry services are part of a holistic approach used by the Jail to reduce inmate recidivism. Reconnecting inmates with the basic services they need to be a functional member of society has a direct impact on if or how long before a particular individual may re-offend. This service requires staffing to help identify housing, medical resources, employment opportunities, transportation services, and other community services. The State of Washington passed a bill several years ago specifically for inmate re-entry services. The amount allotted for these services continues to be reduced year after year while the demand or need continues to rise.

The Public Safety Sales Tax will provide funding for these services. These services are critical to help people receive the services they need, and will help reduce inmate recidivism - therefore keeping criminal justice system costs down.

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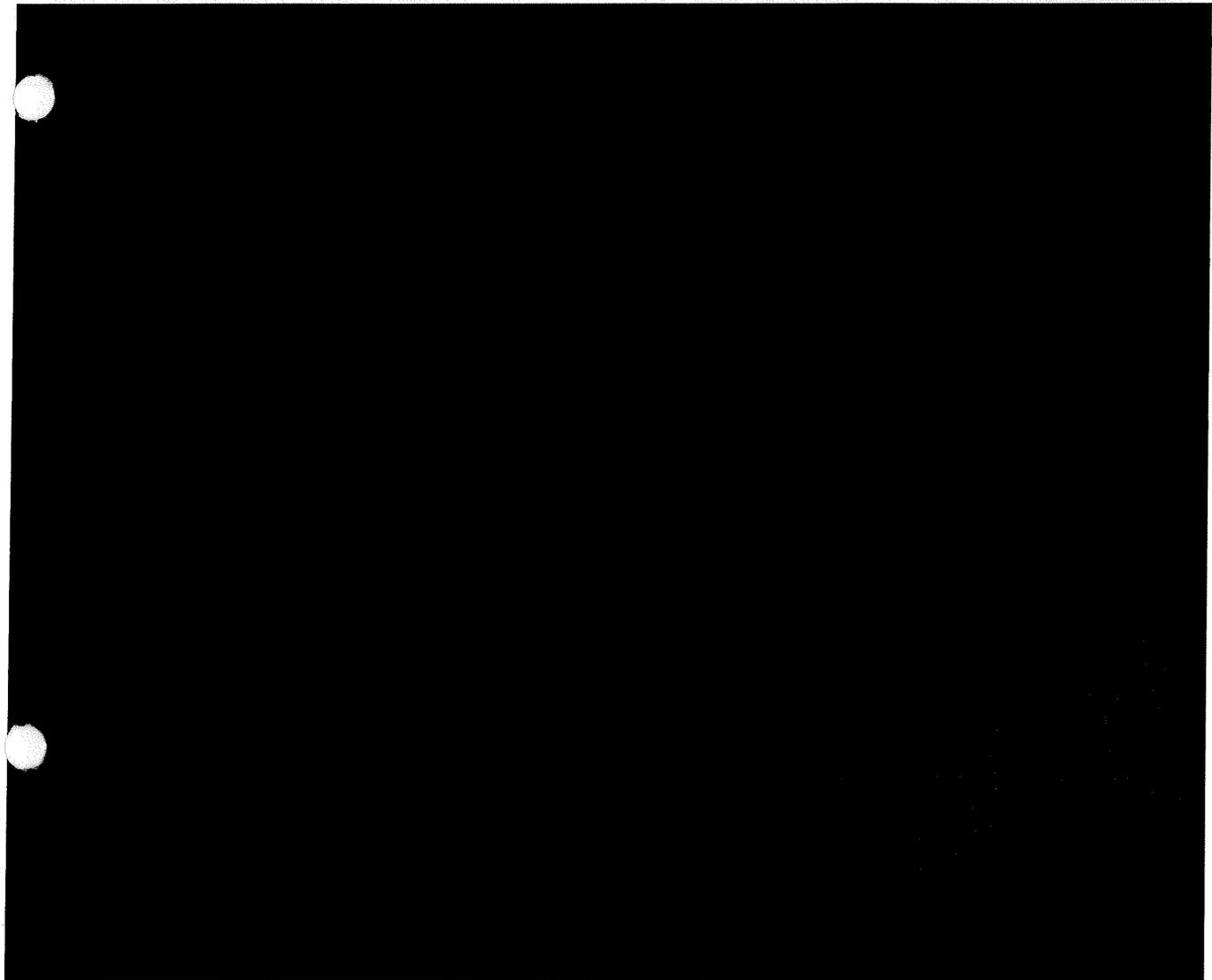
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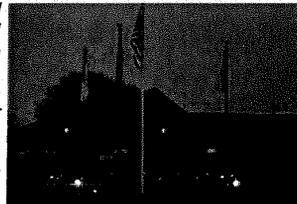
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Richland Residents

[\[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION\]](#)

The City of Richland has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 6 commissioned officers. Three support staff positions will be hired to support these new police officer positions and meet other needs in the Department. The tax will fund all these positions at an annual cost estimated to be \$1,224,000.



In addition, Richland residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.

Explanation for the Need:

The City of Richland's population has grown by 8,000 people in the past ten years to 51,440 in 2014. In 2004 the City of Richland was authorized 58 sworn police officer positions. Today the Richland Police Department has 59 sworn police officers, an addition of 1 position in the last decade. The current state average of sworn police officers is 1.68 officers per 1,000 residents. Richland is currently at 1.14 officers per 1,000 residents.

In addition to this unusually low ratio, it should be noted that the landscape of policing has changed drastically. Changes in case law and the complexity of criminal behavior, have forced law enforcement to find ways to work harder and smarter. These complex investigations and ever changing laws translate into more dedicated policing time and less time in a proactive capacity. Proactivity is the cornerstone of policing allowing officers to spend more time in neighborhoods, enforcing traffic laws, and connecting with the community.

South Richland has seen tremendous growth in the past several years. Both residential and commercial development has increased and the calls for police service have risen proportionately. The annexation of Badger South has brought close to 1,500 acres of future development to the city. The location of Badger South has made access very challenging for public safety. Located on the back side of Badger Mountain, emergency personnel must travel through two neighboring jurisdictions while responding to calls for service in that area. With projected growth, South Richland will become a growing need for police services and the Richland Police Department will need to be strategically located within the South Richland area to meet those growing needs.

The Public Safety Sales Tax provides an opportunity for the Richland Police Department to continue to offer a balanced approach to law enforcement services. With a focus on both law enforcement and crime prevention, the Richland community can continue to be one of the safest cities in the Tri-City Region. Our unique needs mandate that we focus on criminal behavior, crime prevention, traffic safety, and code enforcement. The Public Safety Sales Tax is a framework which preserves the quality of life that Richland enjoys.

Committee Members

Honorary
Chairpersons:

Bill McCurley
Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships

Bill Lampson
President,
Lampson International

Kris Watkins
President & CEO,
Tri-Cities Visitor &
Convention Bureau

Ana Armijo
Benton County
Superior Court
Interpreter/Translator

Paul Warden
Mayor,
City of Prosser

Karen McGinnis
Director,
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Ctr., MSA

Craig D. Eerkes
President,
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Steering
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Ken Hohenberg
Kennebec
Police Chief

Andy Miller
Benton County
Prosecutor

Josie Delvin
Benton County
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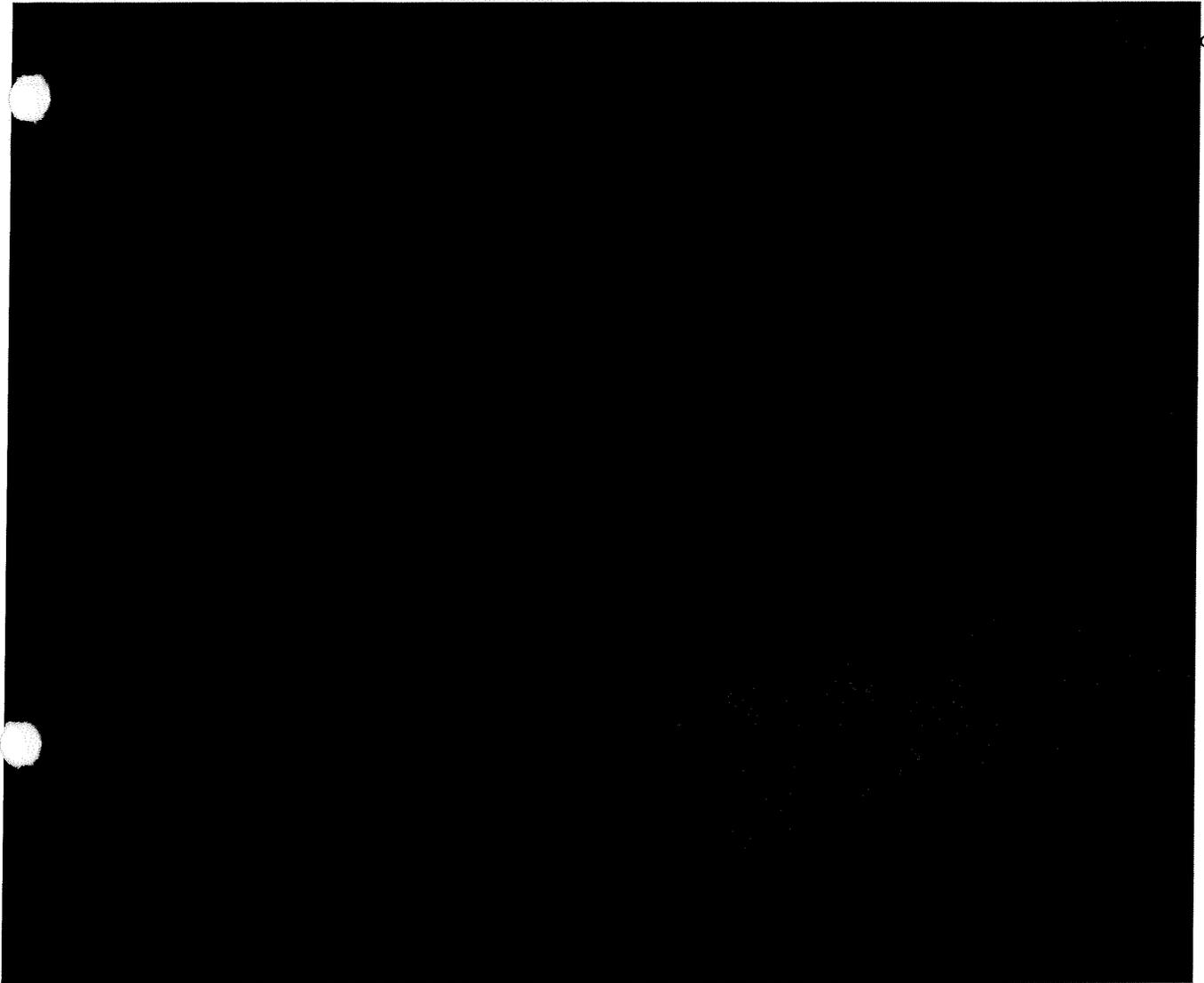
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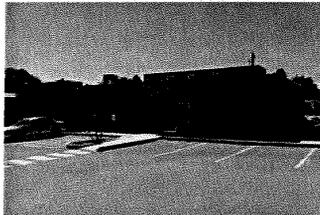
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West Richland Residents

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The City of West Richland has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 3 to 4 commissioned officers at an annual cost estimated to be \$330,200.



In addition, West Richland residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.

Explanation for the Need:

The City of West Richland is a growing community predominately residential in nature. It has a current population (2013) of 13,080 with an average annual growth rate of more than 3%. Since 1994 West Richland has grown by more than 7,500 residents. During this same time period the West Richland Police Department has gone from 10 commissioned officers to 16 commissioned officers with one of those officers assigned to METRO Drug Task Force. While the West Richland Police Department makes every effort to meet the needs of the community the continued growth in population is outpacing the necessary growth of the police department to meet the increased law enforcement needs of the citizens.

"Continually Striving for Safer Community" is the vision of the West Richland Police Department. Inherent in community safety is to appropriately staff levels on each shift to meet the citizen needs should they call to report a crime or need assistance. Most residents when asked how many officers are working on a shift will state three or four officers. The reality is more than 150 shifts in 2013 were staffed by one officer for more than four hours. Community and officer safety are enhanced by having more than one officer staffing each and every shift improving back-up for on duty officers while providing more available time to the officer for investigation and community safety activities.

The citizens of West Richland share in the benefits of having the lowest crime rate within the Tri-Cities. Our city boundaries are shared with the City of Richland and we are a very short drive from Kennewick and Pasco. Each of these cities have seen a rise in criminal gang activity some of this activity violent in nature. Our location and residential design make our community a potential target for property crime, but does guard us to a certain degree from the violence associated with criminal gang activity. However, our location is no guarantee that gang activity won't develop without proactive efforts to stop its influence. In addition, the benefits of this low crime rate though must be guarded and worked to maintain. As our population grows we must meet the service needs of the community with sufficient staff resources to enhance community outreach in areas of crime prevention, intervention and proactive criminal enforcement.

Committee Members

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McCurley Integrity
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Kris Watkins
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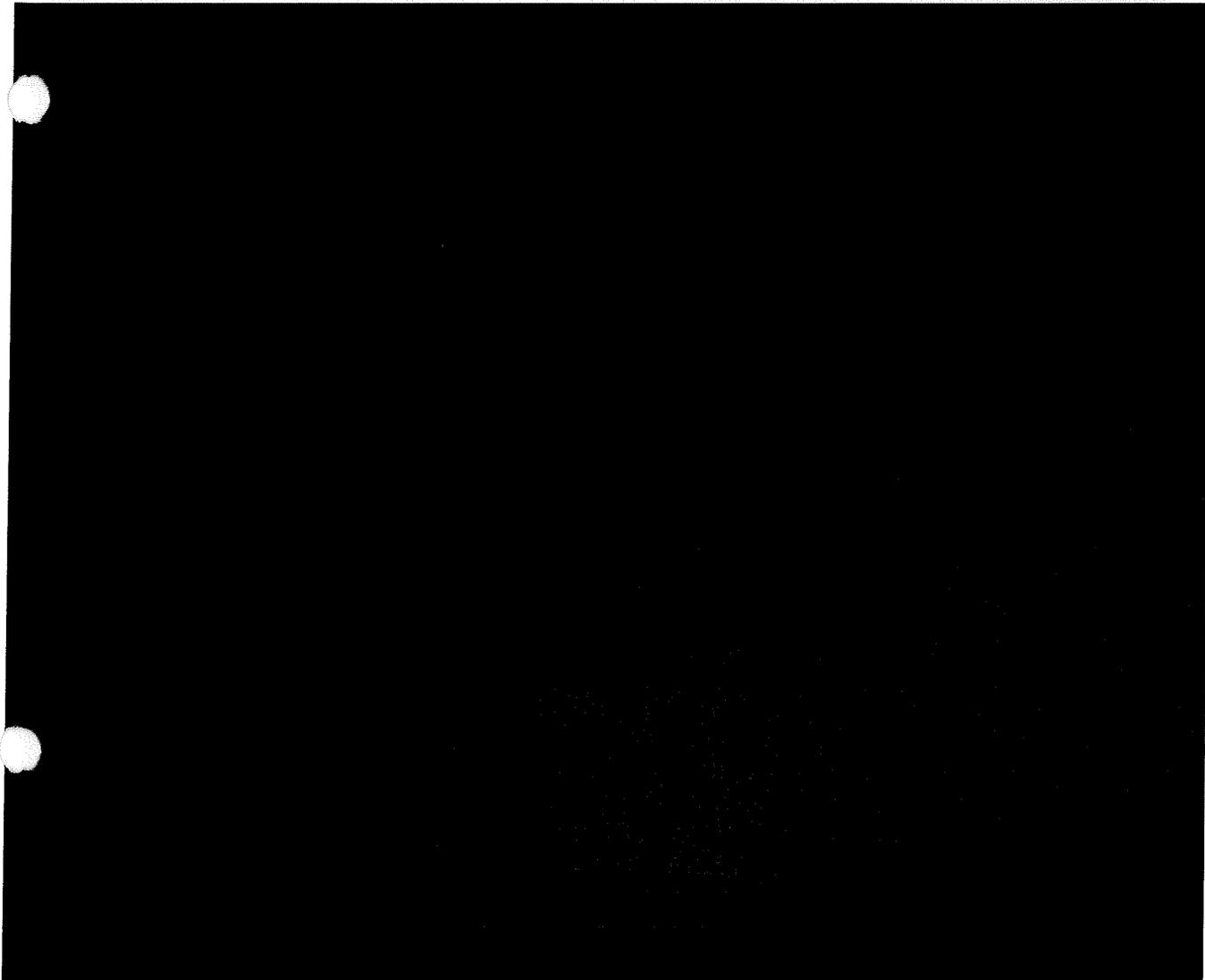
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Kennewick
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Andy Miller
Benton County
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Josie Delvin
Benton County
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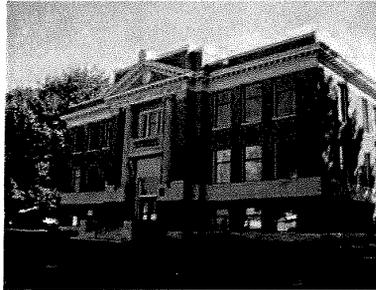
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Prosser Residents

PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION!

The City of Prosser has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 commissioned officer, a part-time support staff member, and fund training and technical programs at an annual cost estimated to be \$140,400.



In addition, Prosser residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.

Explanation for the Need:

One of the major threats to our public safety is the vulnerability of the schools located within our jurisdiction. Having appropriate police presence in our community's schools serves two important public safety goals: 1) Having armed personnel and trained eyes and ears in place acts as a deterrent to individuals who would bring violence to our schools. 2) Through interacting and observing, trained staff can proactively head-off violent incidents from ever happening. In addition, Prosser's number one priority garnered from citizen surveys and from the direction of City Council is the prevention and suppression of gang activity.

The Public Safety Sales Tax monies will allow the Prosser Police Department to place a trained imbedded officer within the Prosser School District (PSD) as a School Resource Officer (SRO). This SRO will work closely with the PSD and fill a significant blind spot that we currently have in regards to public safety.

Additionally, one of the biggest issues the Prosser Police Department faces as a small agency is to provide adequate police coverage around the clock. When the dispatch operation closed for fiscal reasons, it fell to police officers to pick up all or most of the entry of reports and alerts that Prosser Dispatch had done for them in the past. Currently patrol officers are spending at least 20% of their shift entering report data. The Public Safety Sales Tax monies will allow hiring a full time records support person, which will result in an expected 15% increase in police contacts across the board including traffic stops, DUIs, and responses to citizen inquiries.

Mutual aid between the Prosser Police Department and other law enforcement agencies that are not on the Southeast Communications Center (SECOMM) system, such as Washington State Patrol, Yakima County Sheriffs and the City of Grandview, are critical. With the right type of equipment our officers for example can request SECOMM to soft patch their radios to the responding State Patrol's frequency so that mutual assistance can be managed correctly. The Public Safety Sales Tax monies will allow creation and maintenance of a system to allow interoperable communications with all the agencies that are worked with on a regular basis.

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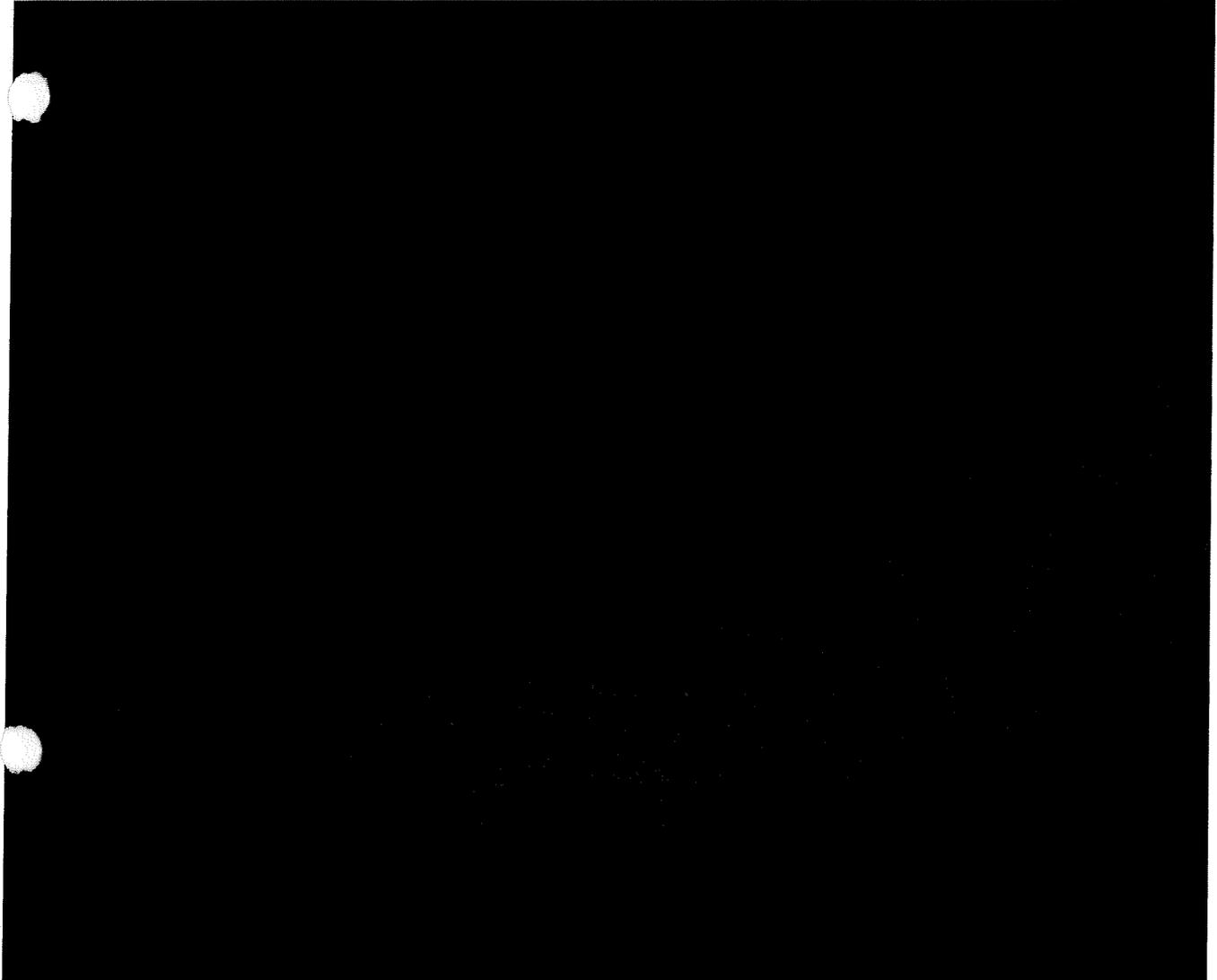
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First and foremost you can help by voting to approve the Public Safety Sales Tax on August 5, 2014. The ballot measure will appear during the primary election.

Financial contributions are greatly appreciated. An account for Citizens for Safe Communities has been opened at the Bank of the West branch on Columbia Center Blvd at Canal. Or feel free to contact us to make other arrangements for a contribution. It costs money for us to get the message out and inform voters on this very important issue. A contribution in any amount is helpful.

If you are interested in actively helping the campaign by placing a yard sign, helping our other volunteers on doorbelling efforts or staffing kiosk information booths, please contact us and we will be in touch with you.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Committee Members

Honorary Chairpersons:

Bill McCurley
*Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships*

Bill Lampson
*President,
Lampson International*

Kris Watkins
*President & CEO,
Tri-Cities Visitor &
Convention Bureau*

Ana Armijo
*Benton County
Superior Court
Interpreter/Translator*

Paul Warden
*Mayor,
City of Prosser*

Karen McGinnis
*Director,
HAMMER Training
Ctr., MSA*

Craig D. Eerkes
*President,
Sun Pacific Energy*

*Steering
Committee:*

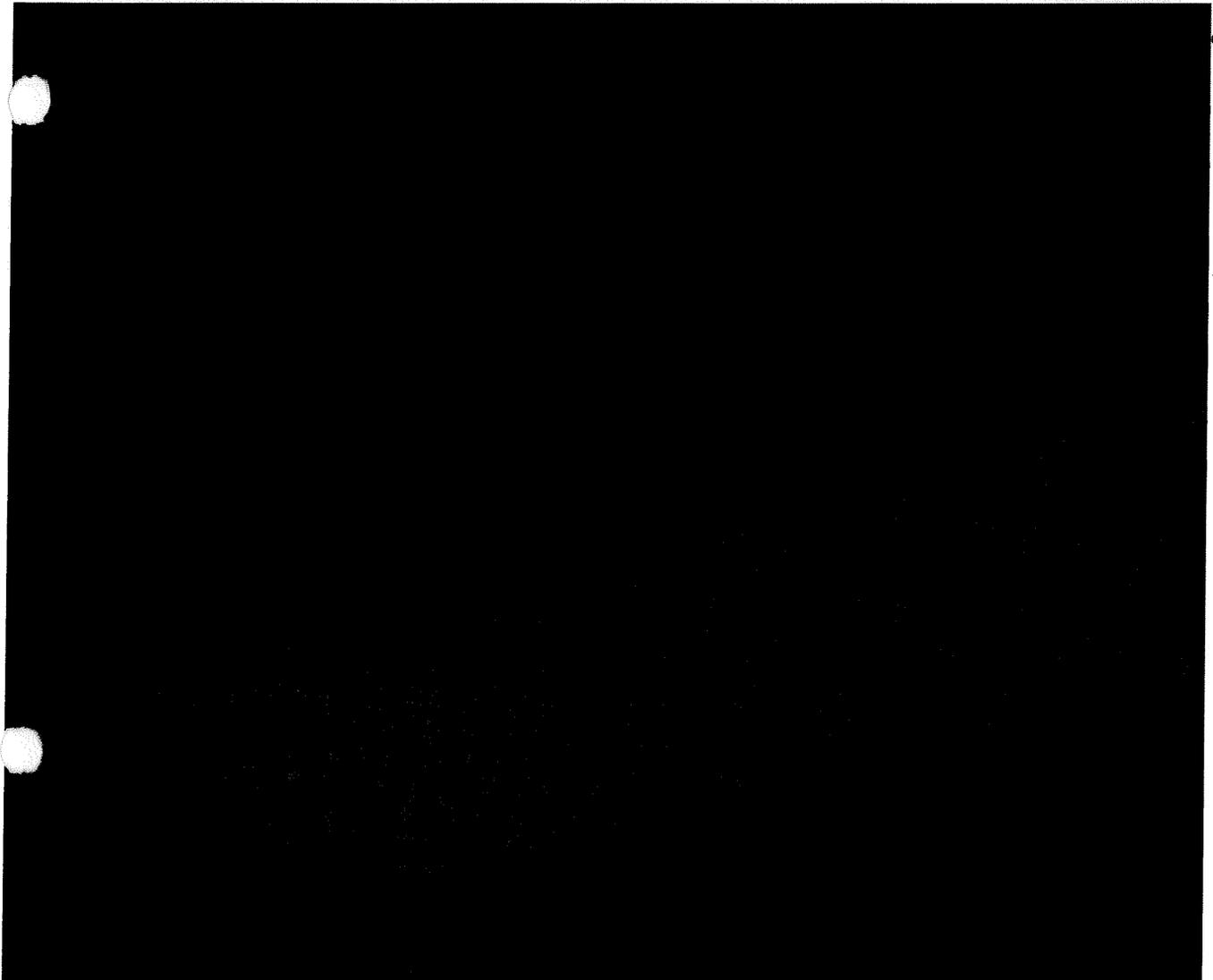
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Updates and Media Releases

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Read the following stories related to the Public Safety Sales Tax:

* TCH 02-26-14 "Benton County may ask voters to pass criminal justice sales tax"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/02/25/2847574/benton-county-may-ask-voters-to.html>

* TCH 03-02-14 "Filling the Need; Sales tax sought to fund creation of mental health court"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/01/2854477/sales-tax-sought-to-fund-creation.html>

* TCH 03-02-14 "Tax-funded Washington programs seeing success"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/01/2854478/tax-funded-washington-mental-health.html>

* TCH 03-04-14 "Criminal justice tax on ballot"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/04/2858066/criminal-justice-sales-tax-will.html>

* TCH 03-05-14 "Where would the money go if the criminal justice tax is approved?"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/05/2859601/where-would-the-money-go-if-the.html>

* TCH 03-09-14 Editorial "Sales tax vote would help improve mental health court"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/07/2864454/our-voice-sales-tax-vote-would.html>

* TCH 03-16-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/14/2876468/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html>

* TCH 03-16-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/14/2876460/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html>

* TCH 03-19-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/18/2882652/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html>

* TCH 03-21-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/20/2886535/letter-public-safety-tax.html>

* TCH 03-24-14 Letter to the Editor (Mental Health issue)
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/24/2893341/letter-mental-health-court.html?sp=/99/1426/>

* TCH 03-24-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/24/2893343/election-letter-public-safety.html?sp=/99/1426/>

* TCH 03-25-14 "Citizens group to push criminal justice sales tax proposal"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/24/2893765/citizens-group-to-push-criminal.html?sp=/99/900/901/>

*TCH 04-22-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/04/22/2938512/public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 04-29-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/04/29/2949176/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

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 Chairman,
 McCurley Integrity
 Dealerships

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 President,
 Lampson International

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*TCH 05-05-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/04/2954392/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 05-05-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/04/2954387/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 05-07-14 "Richland council asked to support tax"
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/06/2960425/richland-council-asked-to-support.html?sp=/99/177/&ihp=1>

*TCH 05-07-14 Letter to the Editor
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/06/2959992/election-letter-public-safety.html?sp=/99/1426/>

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Feel free to contact us with your questions. Just fill out the form below and submit.

Citizens for Safe Communities
P. O. Box 303
Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.375.3468

Send Email:

Your E-mail:

Subject:

Message:



Please enter the code shown above and click Submit.

Committee Members

Honorary Chairpersons:

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McCurley Integrity
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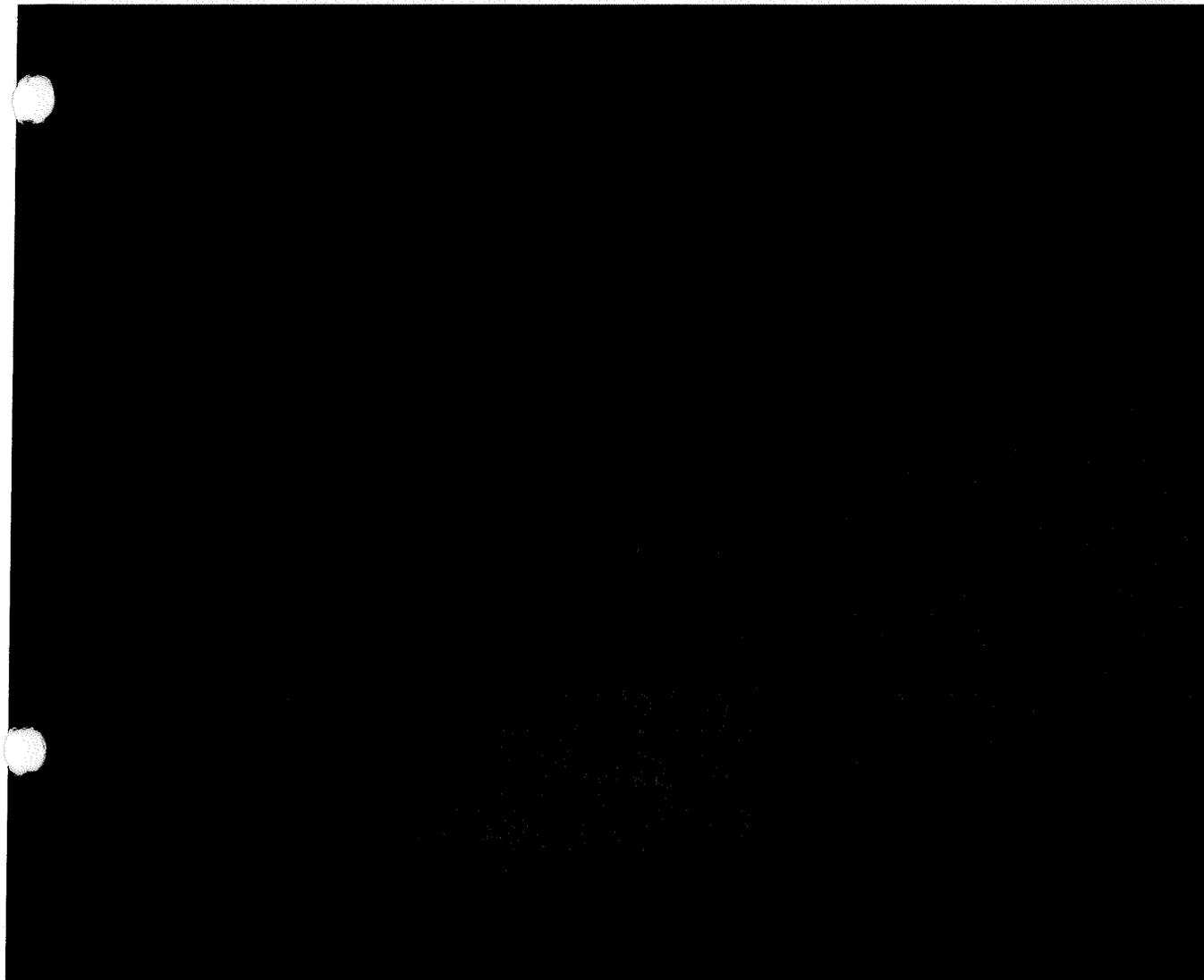
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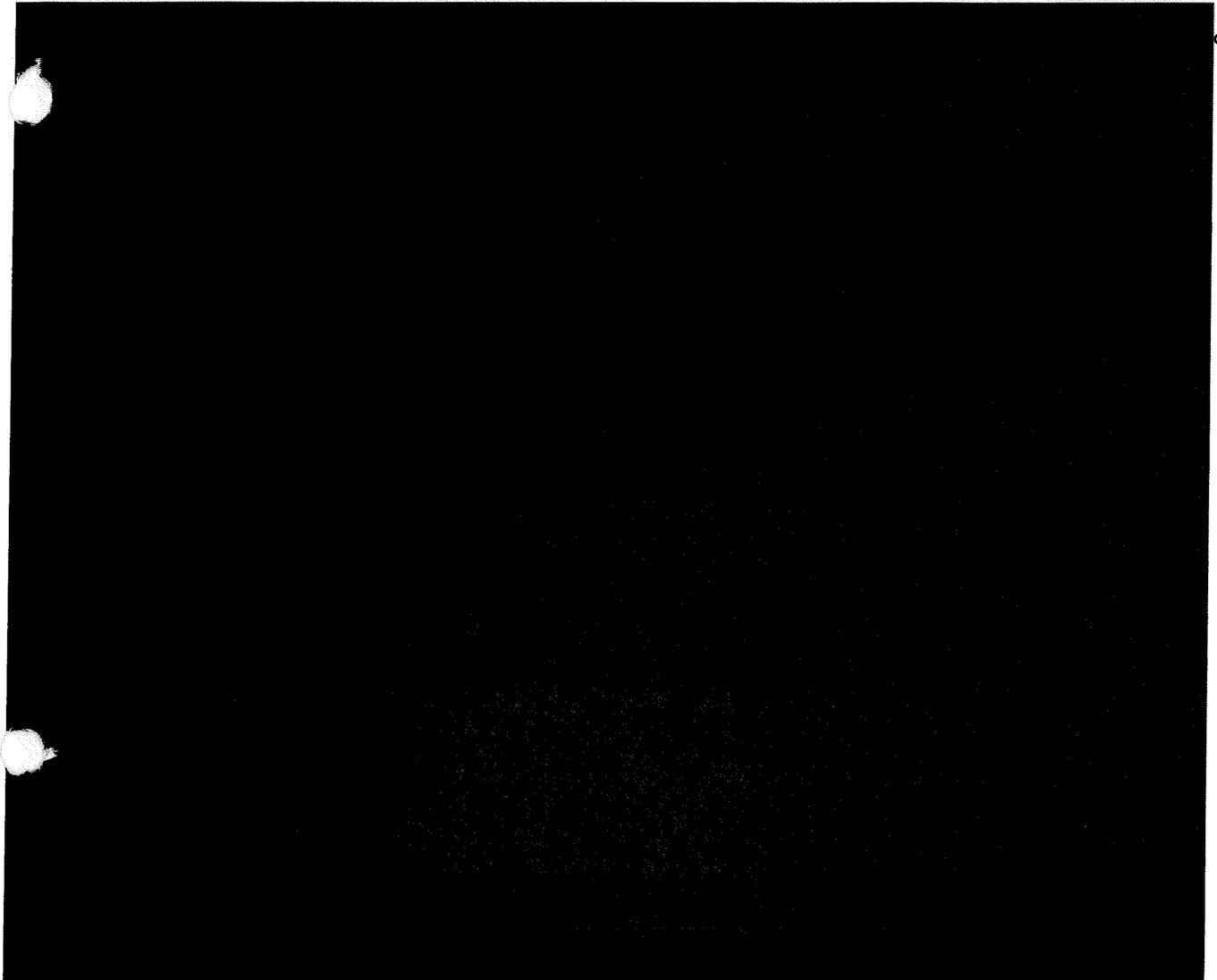
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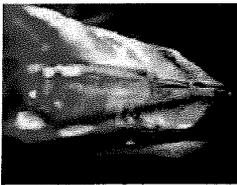
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Welcome

Welcome to the **Citizens for Safe Communities** official website. We hope the information provided on the Benton County **Public Safety Sales Tax** is helpful. It will be presented to voters during the August 5, 2014 primary election. We would appreciate your **support**. Please use the column on the left to navigate through our site.



This is a much-needed **ballot measure** to strengthen public safety in Benton County. It is offered to voters only after **extensive research** was conducted on the county's criminal justice system needs. Those who formally analyzed the issues agree a sales tax in the **amount of 0.3%** (three pennies on a \$10 purchase) is necessary to meet current and future public safety **needs**. There is **no better deal** for your money.



This ballot measure is a **comprehensive approach** to improve public safety **county-wide**, including specific funding for the cities of **Kennewick, Richland, West Richland** and **Prosser**. It will provide for an essential increase in police officers, as well as several other **important programs**. The measure will expire in 10 years, allowing voters to reassess if it's as necessary then as it is today.

Your support is crucial. You can make a difference by voting to approve this ballot measure on August 5th.

Citizens for Safe Communities

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Public Safety Sales Tax?

It's a much-needed measure to strengthen public safety in Benton County. It will do so through a minor sales tax - and one with an expiration date. Commissioners approved the ballot measure to appear before voters on the August 5th primary election. Read the entire ballot measure [here](#). Read the resolution passed by commissioners [here](#).

Why is the sales tax needed?

The sales tax addresses one core issue that impacts everything else we do - our safety. It will put more police officers on the street. It will maintain funding for important crime-fighting strategies such as the Metro Drug Task Force. It will help fight criminal gangs - not only through enforcement, but also by providing our youth with alternatives to the gang lifestyle. The tax will help continue our successful drug court. It will offer for the first time a mental health court. It will provide funding for necessary support staff and improve our criminal justice system. All these measures will help ensure, and improve upon, the quality of life we expect as Benton County residents.

What is the amount of the Public Safety Sales Tax?

Only three tenths of one percent (0.3%). This equates to three pennies on a \$10 purchase. It is a sales tax, not a property tax, so those who make purchases while visiting or traveling through the county will also be supporting public safety. Click [here](#) to see how our sales tax will compare with other cities in the state.

Is this one of those never-ending taxes?

Absolutely not. This tax will expire in 10 years. It is purposely designed to allow voters to reassess if it's as necessary then as it is today. This will also ensure accountability by our local city and county governments on the spending of taxpayer monies. Voters will have the opportunity to reject any extension of this tax if they don't believe local governments have been good stewards of our money.

Who recommended this measure, and why is it for this amount?

An independent citizen advisory group first studied the issue for several months in 2013. These tax paying citizens concluded a three tenths of one percent sales tax was needed to meet the needs of our criminal justice system. The county's Law and Justice Council then studied the matter for several more months. They concurred with the citizen's group finding, and provided details on how the money should be spent. These recommendations were then reviewed and accepted by county commissioners.

How will the money be spent?

It will fund an essential increase in police officers in each of the cities and county. It will provide funding for necessary support, not only for police agencies but also the courts and the rest of the criminal justice system. It will ensure continued funding for the Metro Drug Task Force and the drug court. It will provide for implementation of a mental health court. And it will help combat criminal gangs; not only through enforcement efforts but

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also by funding programs (sponsored by organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs) that will provide our youth with an alternative to the gang lifestyle. Read [here](#) to see how the money will be allocated.

What makes this measure different?

Unlike other taxes that may address issues of convenience or non-essential services, this tax will fund only public safety needs. It is critical to finance this core service to not only ensure, but to increase, our safety and the quality of life that Benton County residents expect. It will allow voters to tell criminals we will not allow them to victimize us. It will allow continued funding of vital crime-fighting strategies. And it will provide our youth with an alternative to the gang lifestyle. But, just as importantly, it will allow people to receive needed help through programs such as drug and mental health court. No other revenue plan addresses the core issue of safety like the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Will this tax solve the mental health issues in the criminal justice system?

The Tri-City Herald has recently done a good job of publicizing the unique challenges people suffering from legitimate mental health illnesses face in the criminal justice system. Nobody pretends that this measure will solve all those challenges. But it is certainly a good first step in the right direction. The tax will allow creation of a mental health court for which there is currently no funding available.

About the Citizens for Safe Communities

The Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) is comprised of residents and/or business owners in Benton County. The group organized in anticipation of a March 2014 proposal being made to Benton County Commissioners requesting they place a Public Safety Sales Tax before county voters. Commissioners subsequently approved the ballot measure for the August 5, 2014 primary election.



CSC members understand the importance of public safety, and the correlation it has to the quality of life that we have come to expect in our communities. We trust our law enforcement representatives when they tell us this measure is needed.

We want to send a message to criminals that we will not allow them to victimize us. We want to offer the message of hope to our youth that there are alternatives to the gang lifestyle. We support funding these alternatives through programs sponsored by organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. We believe in helping those who suffer from addiction or mental illness by providing options such as special drug and mental health courts. We want to help improve the criminal justice system.

It's important to know that CSC members do not generally endorse or support tax measures. We take seriously the fact that your money is hard-earned. We fiercely object when government spends taxpayer money wastefully. However, for the reasons stated above and below, we believe this measure is different – it is critically important and justified. It is one that we are not only willing to approve, but also volunteer our time and effort to help pass.

We think it appropriate that this is a sales tax, not a property tax. People who make purchases while traveling through or visiting the county will help contribute to public safety, along with those who live here. We like that the tax will expire after 10 years. This helps ensure accountability that our money is being spent wisely, and will require another ballot measure to be continued. We ultimately believe this is a matter to be decided by the voters of Benton County, and trust they will make the right decision.

The CSC is proud to have important community members volunteering to serve on its committees. They include:

- * Bill McCurley, *Chairman of McCurley Integrity Dealerships.*
- * Bill Lampson, *President of Lampson International.*
- * Kris Watkins, *President & CEO of Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau*
- * Ana Armijo, *Benton County Superior Court Interpreter/Translator*
- * Paul Warden, *Mayor for the City of Prosser.*
- * Karen McGinnis, *Director of the HAMMER Training Ctr., MSA*
- * Craig D. Eerkes, *President of Sun Pacific Energy.*
- * Ken Hohenberg, *Chief of the Kennewick Police Department.*
- * Andy Miller, *Benton County Prosecuting Attorney.*
- * Josie Delvin, *Benton County Clerk.*

Please click [here](#) if you are interested in volunteering or financially supporting this cause.

Authority for a Public Safety Tax

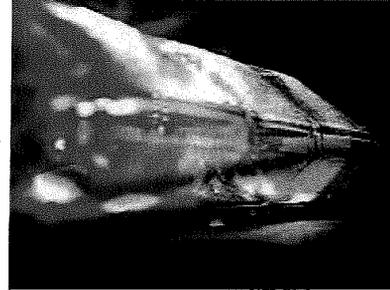
Authority for a Public Safety Sales Tax

Sales and use taxes for counties and cities are authorized by RCW 82.14.450. It reads "A county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters at a primary or general election and, if approved by a majority of persons voting, impose a sales and use tax."

The rate of tax under this section may not exceed three-tenths (0.3) of one percent (1%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax. One-third of all money received under this section must be used solely for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purposes, or both. Sixty percent (60%) of the money received must be retained by the county and forty percent (40%) must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county. The use of monies received by a sales tax shall be restricted to those items specified in the ballot measure language.

The definition of criminal justice purposes is set forth in RCW 82.14.340. It reads "Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section must be expended for criminal justice purposes. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system..."

Unlike a property tax, a sales tax is shared not only by those who reside in the county, but also by those visiting the county. In a November 2009 editorial the Tri-City Herald offered its opinion that "It (sales tax versus property tax) seemed like a fair way to find money for improvements to public safety."



Movement for a Ballot Measure

Movement for a 2014 Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax Ballot Measure

The impetus to present a criminal justice sales tax to Benton County voters is based upon the need to obtain sustainable funding to aid the currently under-funded public safety function, and was encouraged by the success of the 2011 Franklin County effort (theirs was a 0.3% sales tax for 30 years).

The Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) was formed in September 2012. It was comprised of county residents approved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners. Their stated purpose was to operate fully independent of the Benton County Law and Justice Council, and/or any government entities represented by that council, to analyze and review all aspects of the Benton County public safety system. They were to make a recommendation to county commissioners on whether or not a criminal justice sales tax should be submitted to voters. If their analysis identified the need for a sales tax, they were asked to provide a recommendation on the amount.

In August 2013 the Advisory Committee recommended to county commissioners that a criminal justice sales tax in the amount of 0.3% (three pennies on a \$10 purchase) is needed to meet the county's current and future criminal justice needs. They recommended a ballot measure in that amount be placed before the voters of Benton County. The committee identified that a sales tax at that rate would generate a total annual funding source of from \$9 million to \$9.6 million. A breakdown of that total includes (low/high estimates shown):

- Benton County: \$5.4 million/ \$5.7 million
- Kennewick: \$1.8 million/ \$1.9 million
- Richland: \$1.2 million/ \$1.3 million
- West Richland: \$309,600/ \$330,200
- Prosser: \$140,400/ \$149,800
- Benton City: \$82,800/ \$88,300

The Advisory Committee concluded the identified funding will meet the current and future needs of the county and its municipalities.

County commissioners supported the idea of sending a measure to voters and asked the Benton County Law and Justice Council (BCLJC) to review the recommendations and prepare a resolution. The BCLJC spent several months researching the issue, having met with many city and county representatives and others who may be impacted by the measure. The BCLJC concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the need for the 0.3% sales tax, and prepared recommendations on how the revenue should be spent. The recommendations were then presented to and accepted by county commissioners on March 4, 2014.

After having been studied and researched for a year and a half by an independent citizen advisory committee and the Benton County Law and Justice Council, the ballot measure will be presented to Benton County voters during the August 5, 2014 primary election. The fate of the measure will be rightfully decided by the voters. Click [here](#) for the specifics of the ballot measure.

Ballot Measure Wording

Ballot Measure Wording

Benton County Increase in Sales and Use Tax for Public Safety Needs

The Benton County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2014-259 that seeks to improve public safety including combating criminal gangs. This proposition would fund the hiring of additional police officers, corrections officers, and prosecutors; fund the Metro Drug Task Force and gang and crime prevention efforts; and fund court and clerk programs including a seventh Superior Court Judge and drug and mental health courts, by imposing a sales and use tax equal to three-tenths of one percent (three cents on a ten dollar purchase) with the tax expiring December 31, 2024. Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

Resolution Approved by Commissioners

Resolution Approved by Benton County Commissioners

RESOLUTION 2014 259

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF PLACEMENT ON THE BALLOT OF A PROPOSITION FOR AN INCREASE IN SALES AND USE TAX FOR FUNDING PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS IN BENTON COUNTY,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 82.14.450 in 2003 to authorize county legislative authorities to submit propositions to the voters that would authorize an increase in local sales and use tax by up to three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax; and

WHEREAS, the tax referenced above shall not apply to the retail sales or use of motor vehicles or the first 36 months of a lease thereof; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 requires that at least one-third of the revenues from such a tax be used for specified criminal justice purposes and that the County retain 60% of said revenues and 40% be distributed to the cities therein based on relative populations; and

WHEREAS, criminal activity in Benton County has increased in both sophistication and complexity in recent years, requiring a substantially greater investment of time and resources by the local criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the legislature expressly found when it passed RCW 82.14.450 that local governments face enormous challenges in the funding of criminal justice services; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the number of committed crimes impacts all facets of the criminal justice system, including the local police departments and Benton County Sheriff's Office, the County Prosecutor's Office and city attorney's offices, the local public defense system, District and Superior Courts, the Coroner's Office and the County Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the crimes committed in Benton County are committed by persons with drug, alcohol and/or mental problems, or who are involved in criminal gang activity or lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Benton County has learned from the experience of its drug court and the experiences of other jurisdictions with their mental health courts that such programs can reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, approximately 79 percent of the County's general fund budget, which are the funds that over which the County has discretionary control, go to law enforcement and other criminal justice related services; and

WHEREAS, Benton County and the cities within it have collectively lost millions of dollars annually in funding from the State that previously subsidized County/city law and justice budgets due to the elimination of the motor vehicle excise tax; and

WHEREAS, the County and cities' costs for law enforcement personnel salaries, benefits and operations of law enforcement departments are increasing at a rate equal to and often higher than the local consumer price index, causing the gap between funds available and funds

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needed for law enforcement to widen each year; and

WHEREAS, it is for reasons such as the above that the legislature passed RCW 82.14.450; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have received reports from a volunteer Citizen’s Advisory Committee indicating that there is a need for additional funding for the law and justice system within Benton County; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office advises that the proposed ballot title included in Resolution 2014-206 concerning this same subject matter should be revised; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney, the Benton County Superior Court Administrator, the Benton County Clerk, and the police chiefs from each city within the County have all recommended that the Board call for an election on the imposition of the tax referenced herein; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 states that the passage of this measure requires over 50% approval at a primary or general election, and the next primary election is August 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the best interests of the people of Benton County would be served by submitting to the affected voters the determination of whether or not to authorize a sales and use tax to fund the needs within the criminal justice; **NOW THEREFORE**,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Benton County Commissioners that a county-wide election be held on August 5, 2014 for the purpose of submitting to the affected voters the determination of whether or not to authorize a sales and use tax increase at the rate of three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) to be levied upon the adoption of an implementing ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Resolution 2014-206 is hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the revenue from such tax shall only be utilized by the County and the cities therein for the purposes set forth in the ballot proposition set forth below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Benton County Auditor is hereby requested to place a proposition on the August 5, 2014 ballot in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. ____

BENTON COUNTY INCREASE IN LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

The Benton County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2014-259 that seeks to improve public safety including combating criminal gangs. This proposition would fund the hiring of additional police officers, corrections officers, and prosecutors; fund the Metro Drug Task Force and gang and crime prevention efforts; and fund court and clerk programs including a seventh Superior Court Judge and drug and mental health courts, by imposing a sales and use tax equal to three-tenths of one percent (three cents on a ten dollar purchase) with the tax expiring December 31, 2024. Should this proposition be:

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REJECTED.....[]

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Auditor of Benton County in order that the foregoing proposition be placed on the ballot and submitted to the voters of the County for the primary election to be held on August 5, 2014.

Dated this 25 day of March, 2014.

James Beaver
Chairman of the Board

Jerome Delvin
Member

Shon Small
Member

Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
of Benton County, Washington

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

Anticipated Revenue

Anticipated Revenue

Sixty percent (60%) of the money received must be retained by the county and forty percent (40%) must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county. The Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee identified the following estimates of revenue to be generated by this measure:

- Benton County: \$5.4 million/ \$5.7 million
- Kennewick: \$1.8 million/ \$1.9 million
- Richland: \$1.2 million/ \$1.3 million
- West Richland: \$309,600/ \$330,200
- Prosser: \$140,400/ \$149,800
- Benton City: \$82,800/ \$88,300

How the Revenue will be Spent

The municipalities and Benton County Departments have declared their intent to spend the Public Safety Sales Tax on the following items and/or programs. Anticipated revenue and expenses are estimates only.

Jurisdiction/ Departments	Funding Details	Total Funding Proposal
Municipalities		
Kennewick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 sworn positions • 1 Assistant City Attorney position • 2 support staff positions 	\$1,931,406
Richland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sworn positions • 3 support staff positions 	\$1,224,000
West Richland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 sworn positions 	\$330,200
Prosser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 sworn position • 0.8 support staff • Other costs including tech and training 	\$140,400
Benton County		
County Clerk's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 FTE Deputy Clerks • IT and other support for Deputy Clerks 	\$117,476
Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (7th) superior Court Judge position • 0.5 FTE Court Commissioner • Adult Drug Court funding • SAP program (juvenile probation) • Juvenile Drug Court • Functional Family Therapy (juvenile) 	\$309,900 \$261,571 (juvenile)
District Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge ProTem • Professional Services • Jury fees • Print bindery • Additional staff (increase PT and 1.0 FTE) • IT equipment • Miscellaneous 	\$159,300
Coroner's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 FTE Deputy Coroner 	\$72,000
Sheriff's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 sworn positions • 2 support staff • 2 jail booking staff (fully county funded) • 4 corrections staff (fully county funded) • Inmate management system • Radio maintenance 	\$1,929,016
Prosecutor's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional felony Deputy Prosecutor • Additional appellate Deputy Prosecutor • Adult felony staff position 	\$264,289
Public Defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff defender in Superior Court unit • Additional contract defender in District Court unit • 1.0 FTE legal assistant • 1.0 FTE office support 	\$215,330

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert Office Manager to supervisory position 	
Gang and Crime Prevention & Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with Boys & Girls Club (after-school programs for gang prevention and youth empowerment) and other similar programs • Partnership with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place for crime prevention and intervention services for homeless at-risk youth • Nurse-Family Partnership program for Benton County residents (Health Department) 	\$500,00(Partnership w/Boys & Girls Club and other programs) \$50,000(Partnership with Safe Harbor/ My Friend's Place) \$303,487 (Nurse-Family Partnership)
Continue funding for Metro Drug Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of Benton County Prosecutor salary/benefits • 75% of salary/benefits for two support positions • 100% of additional Benton County Metro Detective and related equipment (bringing back to previously funded two-person strength) 	\$400,000
Multi-Departmental Mental Health Court & Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time District Court Commissioner/Judge ProTem & Probation Officer, part-time deputy prosecutor and part-time public defender (for Mental Health Court) • Chemical Dependency Professional • Peer Support Specialist • Treatment cost support for participants (supplementing insurance where needed and providing access for uninsured participants) • Case management services (serving both Mental Health Court and mental health diversion/triage) 	\$600,000
Reserve Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of additional criminal justice programs such as: • Reduction of jail expenses • Mental Health services for jail inmates • Re-entry services and programming for jail inmates 	\$367,631

Total estimated Municipality Expenses: \$3,626,006
 Estimated funding for municipalities at 0.3%: \$3,626,006

Total estimated Benton County Departments Expenses: \$5,550,000
 Estimated funding for Benton County at 0.3%: \$5,550,000

This data was obtained from the proposal submitted to Benton County Commissioners by the Law and Justice Council.

What Your Money Gets You

What you pay	What you receive for your money
0.3% sales tax or 3 pennies on a \$10 purchase or \$87 annually per family*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 32 additional police officers• 1 additional Superior Court Judge• 2 additional Deputy Prosecutors• 1 additional Assistant City Attorney• Continued funding for the Metro Drug Task Force• Continued funding for Drug Courts• Creation of a Mental Health Court• Creation of new gang prevention and intervention programs

**Projection by the Washington State Department of Revenue on what a Benton County family with average median income will pay annually based upon a 0.3% sales tax*

There is no better deal for your money.

Tax Rate Comparisons

With the 0.3% increase to our sales tax as a result of this measure, we would rank as shown below to the other cities in our state. It should be noted that of the totals shown below, .065 is due to the mandatory state sales tax rate.

Source of information: Washington State Department of Revenue

City	Combined Total Sales Tax Rate
Mill Creek	.096
Auburn	.095
Bellevue	.095
Bothell	.095
Burien	.095
Des Moines	.095
Federal Way	.095
Issaquah	.095
Kent	.095
Kirkland	.095
Lynnwood	.095
Mercer Island	.095
Mountlake Terrace	.095
Redmond	.095
Renton	.095
Seattle	.095
Tacoma	.095
Tukwila	.095
Woodinville	.095
Puyallup	.094
Everett	.092
Port Townsend	.090
Walla Walla	.089
Olympia	.088
Bainbridge Island	.087
Bellingham	.087
Bremerton	.087
Cheney	.087
College Place	.087
Lacey	.087
Medical Lake	.087
Millwood	.087
Monroe	.087
Oak Harbor	.087
Port Orchard	.087
Spokane	.087
Spokane Valley	.087
Tumwater	.087
Yelm	.087

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Benton City	.086
Kennewick	.086
Pasco	.086
Prosser	.086
Richland	.086
West Richland	.086
Anacortes	.085
Gig Harbor	.085
Hoquiam	.085
Mount Vernon	.085
Sedro-Woolley	.085
West Port	.085
Vancouver	.084
Wenatchee	.084
Chelan	.082
Okanogan	.082
Twisp	.082
Yakima	.082
Union Gap	.081
Ellensburg	.080
Grandview	.079
Moses Lake	.079
Sunnyside	.079
Pullman	.078
Othello	.077

All Benton County Residents

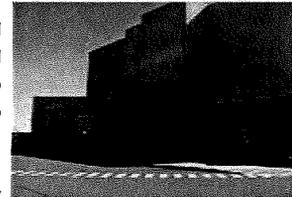
Sixty percent of the monies generated from the Public Safety Sales Tax will be devoted to Benton County. Any programs funded by these monies will benefit all residents of the county. The county has declared funding from the tax to be used for the following:

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 7 commissioned deputies, 2 support staff, 2 jail booking staff, 4 corrections staff, obtain an inmate management system, and maintain radio operations. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$1,929,016.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing active patrolling and 24-hour response to all calls for service in the 1,722 square miles of Benton County. By the end of 2012 the Patrol Division responded to nearly 41,000 calls for service, which is a 19% increase over the last five years combined. From 1995 to 2012 our calls for service have increased 110.79%. The Sheriff's Office has been able to add only two deputies to Patrol staffing, solely dedicated to Patrol, since 1993.



In 2011, the Benton County Sheriff's Office received additional funding for four deputies to create a very successful Gang Enforcement Team. In 2012 this team served 800 arrest warrants, filed 548 misdemeanor charges, 269 felony charges, incarcerated 441 suspects, executed 145 search warrants and seized 33 dangerous weapons. Despite their success, there is no guaranteed funding to maintain this unit and our pro-active approach to reduce criminal gang violence. In addition, this unit does not respond to routine calls, but prioritizes its focus on gang-related issues. The burden of responding to calls for service remains on the shoulders of the patrol deputies. When the calls increase significantly, the deputies are stretched thinner thereby influencing their effectiveness and the safety for themselves and citizens.

Investigations involving search and seizure have become much more complex and time consuming. The time it takes deputies to complete these types of investigations has significantly increased, essentially taking a deputy out of service (and off of patrol activities and response) for prolonged periods of time. With cellular phone (smart phone) technology, and the electronic evidence within, we have to maintain a full time detective that focuses solely on computer/cellular phone forensic analysis.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is also responsible for all operations and management of the Benton County Jail. In 2013/2014 the Benton County Sheriff's Office experienced a significant reduction in our operating budget, which resulted in significant cuts to jail staffing. Additional law enforcement officers hired by our city partners will add to the number of inmates booked and released from our jail. Inmate population increases will result in the need for additional Corrections Officers to effectively manage the inmate population, maintaining the safety of the inmates and liability to the County. An increase in the inmate population will also impact the courts, thus resulting in an increase in inmates being supervised in transit to and from the courtrooms.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing the highest quality law enforcement services to the people who live, work and visit our county. With the symbiotic and cooperative relationships involving our city partners, the Tri-Cities is a safe place to live, work and visit. The Public Safety Sales Tax will help keep it that way.

METRO DRUG TASK FORCE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to continue funding for the Metro Drug Task Force, including paying for all costs of additional Benton County Metro Detectives and related equipment, all costs for a Deputy Prosecutor, and partial costs for 2 support staff positions. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$400,000.

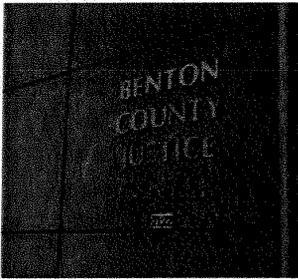
Explanation for the Need:

The Tri-City Metro Drug Task Force is comprised of Detectives from the Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, and West Richland Police Departments as well as the Benton and Franklin County Sheriff's Offices. This highly effective Drug Task Force is a cooperative effort between all of our local jurisdictions and first started in 1988. The Task Force targets higher level drug dealers and works in conjunction with other Drug Task Forces throughout the State of Washington. The Metro Drug Task Force has been credited for reducing violent crime surrounding the sale and use of narcotics in the Tri-Cities. The Task Force was funded through a federal grant (Byrne Grant Funding). During the last ten years, due to the economic downturn, the federal funding has continued to diminished, creating a funding risk to support the task force.

Over the past 10 years the City of Richland and the Benton County Sheriff's Office had to remove a Detective from the unit due to budget constraints in their home agencies.

The Public Safety Sales Tax will fully fund a Benton County Deputy Prosecutor, a second Benton County Detective, ¾ funding for the two support staff and related equipment and training due to the loss of federal funding. The Metro Drug Task Force continues to be an effective strategy in

reducing violent crime in the Tri-Cities. The Public Safety Sales Tax will ensure continuation of this important strategy.



BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 felony Deputy Prosecutor, 1 appellate Deputy Prosecutor, and an adult felony staff position. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$264,289.

Explanation for the Need:

There have been a dramatic increase in the number of gang cases in the past few years. The prosecution of gang cases is much more complex and time demanding than normal criminal prosecutions. One reason is that the victims and witnesses to gang crimes are often rival gang members or members of the same gang. While they may sometimes make initial statements to law enforcement officers it is very rare that they will testify. If they are compelled to testify they usually will not testify truthfully. Sometimes the gang member may have charges pending against him/her and therefore the prosecutor has to make decisions as to immunity or plea agreement for the gang witness. In that case the prosecutor must work with law enforcement to make sure there is corroboration of the gang member's testimony. If the victim or witness is not a gang member they are often afraid to cooperate with the law enforcement investigation or prosecution. The prosecutor must

spend time with that witness to convince the witness to testify or look at alternative ways to obtain the witness. In all gang cases it is important to obtain corroborating evidence through search warrants, medical records, phone records and other items. Finally, given the complex nature of gang membership in our area, it is necessary to have a prosecutor with background and knowledge on local gang issues and gang membership. Law enforcement has recognized similar issues by creation of special units such as the Benton County Sheriff's office's gang unit and Kennewick Police Department's Criminal Apprehension team. The public safety tax would allow for a similar resource for the prosecutor's office, a gang prosecutor who would be devoted full time to the specialization of gang prosecutions

Also in gang, other violent crime prosecutions, drug delivery prosecutions and prosecution of sex crimes we are seeing more and more appeal issues. Virtually every criminal convicted of a serious crime is appealing the conviction. Other counties the size of Benton County have full time appellate prosecutors. Not only does having an appellate prosecutor free up the other prosecutors to spend prosecuting violent crimes it also creates expertise in the office for knowing what legal issues to avoid at trial and decrease the chance of a conviction being overturned on appeal

Finally, the increase in serious crime and gang activity has increased the need to arrest the violent criminal and gang criminal. However, the strict rules of requiring formal charges within a short time of arrest have limited that ability. The addition of a support staff to timely process arrests and then do follow up on violent crime prosecutions is as important as the addition of a deputy prosecutor.

GANG AND CRIME PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to implement gang and crime prevention and intervention methods by partnering with the Boys and Girls Club for after-school gang prevention and intervention and youth empowerment programs, and other programs, partnering with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place for crime prevention and intervention services for homeless at-risk youth, and partnering with Nurse-Family programs through the Health Department. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$500,000 for the Boys and Girls Club partnership, \$50,000 for the Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place partnership, and \$303,487 for the Nurse-Family partnership.

Explanation for the Need:

It is important to fight crime by arresting the criminals and holding them accountable for their actions. In the long run, it is better for the victim and cheaper for taxpayers to prevent the crime before it happens. Research has shown that crime prevention programs can reduce crime. Three areas of gang and crime prevention for our community have been identified; gang prevention, nurse family partnership, and case management for homeless youth.

Gang Prevention: Gang membership and gang crime in Benton County is beginning with middle school and sometimes elementary school aged youth. Certain youth are at high risk of becoming involved in gangs, especially during times when the youth is not in school and while parents are at work.

The Boys and Girls Club has a comprehensive gang prevention proposal that uses effective techniques and strategies to direct at-risk youth to positive alternatives. It includes a referral network with courts, police, schools, social service agencies as well as direct outreach to identify at risk youth and mainstream them into program activities which includes supervision. The proposal includes case management and services. It includes monthly reviews for each youth including club involvement, school performance, family involvement and any court involvement. An independent evaluation of the model for this program was conducted by Public/Private Ventures and its findings are available at www.ppv.org

Nurse Family Partnership: Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence based program that partners first time, low income mothers with nurse home visitors. A specially trained nurse visits moms throughout their pregnancy and until their baby turns two years old. The proposal would allow the Benton-Franklin County Public Health district to hire three specially trained public health nurses which could assume a total caseload of 75 families. There has been 35 years of extensive research on Nurse-Family Partnerships including a recent study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (November 2013) and the PIRE report of Life Status and Financial Outcomes of Nurse-Family Partnership. It found that enrolling 1000 low income families into NFP would prevent 286 violent crimes, 1,893 property and public order crimes and 204 years of youth substance abuse.

Homeless Youth: Law Enforcement and the Juvenile Justice Center have identified a correlation between homeless youth and their risk or record for criminal behavior. Currently Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place provides a shelter for homeless youth and works with Juvenile Court and probation with youth who are currently homeless. This proposal would include approximately \$50,000 to provide case management and other services for homeless youth who are identified as being at-risk to commit crime.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT AND DIVERSION

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to implement a Mental Health Court program. Funding will be used to pay for 1 District Court Judge, 1 Probation Officer, 1 Deputy Prosecutor, 1 Public Defender, 1 chemical dependency professional, case management services and treatment costs for participants (supplementing insurance when needed and providing access for uninsured). The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$600,000.

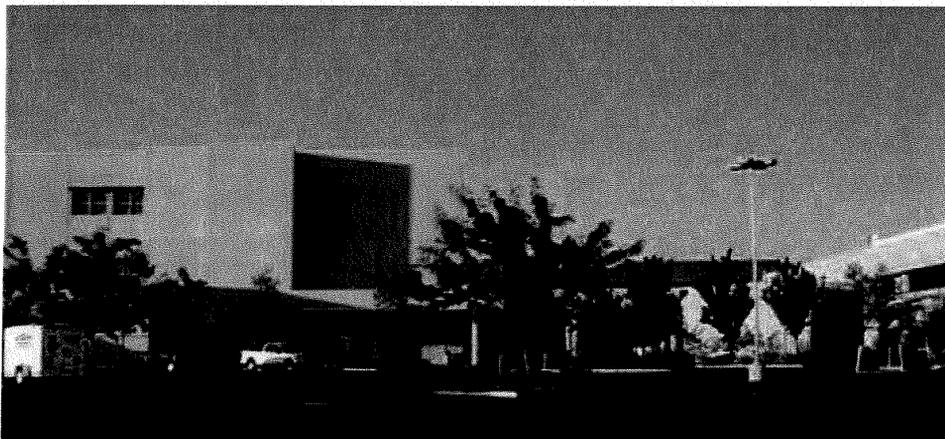
Explanation for the Need:

Currently many crimes in Benton County are being committed by people who have mental health issues. Many of these individuals would not commit the crimes if they were receiving treatment, case management and medication services. This proposal includes two proposals that would provide for supervision and treatment for people with mental illness issues. These proposals do not include criminals who have committed violent or sex crimes but are designed for those who have committed non-violent crimes.

RCW 10.31.110 allows law enforcement officers to take a person who may suffer from a mental disorder and has committed a non-felony and non-serious offense to a triage facility instead of jail. The individual would then obtain treatment and supervision instead of going to jail and court. The proposal includes funding for case management and supervision for those offenders and includes some money to provide mental health treatment when the case manager cannot find available treatment.

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The proposal includes a mental health court. This would be modeled on other mental health courts in the state and on the successful drug court in Benton County. An individual who is charged with a non-violent and non-felony crime and who may suffer from a mental disorder that may have caused the crime would be placed in mental health court. Case management, treatment and other services are provided to the individual. The Court supervises the individual's progress and compliance with treatment and other conditions. If the individual completes the treatment and supervision, the case is dismissed and the defendant does not have to go to jail. Research has shown that mental health courts reduce the likelihood that the individual will commit another crime and save the taxpayers money by avoiding expensive jail sentences. The program provides part time funding for a District Court Judge, prosecutor and defender to participate in the drug court program. However, the majority of the funding goes to case management and supervision of the offender with some treatment funds for those who cannot otherwise afford or obtain the treatment.



BENTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 Superior Court Judge, 1 part-time Court Commissioner, and funding for the Adult Drug Court, fully fund the Juvenile Drug Court, re-implementation of the Selective Aggressive Probation (SAP) program (used to monitor high-risk youth on juvenile probation), and funding for juvenile functional family therapy. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$309,900 for adult services, and \$261,571 for juvenile services.

Explanation for the Need:

The Superior Court is a bi-county judicial district with six elected judges and two and one-half court commissioners serving both Benton and Franklin Counties. The Superior Court is a general jurisdiction trial court handling an assortment of cases, including but not limited to criminal, civil, domestic (divorce/paternity), adoption, probate, mental illness, domestic violence, lower court appeals, administrative law reviews, juvenile offender and juvenile dependency. The 2013 State Office of Court Administration's full year caseload report identified 7,865 cases filed in Benton County and 3,220 cases filed in Franklin County. Of those cases 1,419 were Benton County criminal case filings and 593 were Franklin County criminal case filings. In 2013 the Superior Court held a total of 284 trials, 60,343 proceedings and completed 11,512 cases. As the population continues to grow there will be an increased need for law enforcement officers. As law enforcement officers are added to the local law enforcement agencies more court cases will be generated adding to the court's already burdened system.

The 2012 Judicial Needs Estimate, calculated by the Washington State Office of Court Administration, states an estimated need of 9.87 judicial officers for Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court. The Court is currently staffed at 8.50 judicial officers. Our community has continued to grow in population even through a struggling economy which in turn has added an extra burden on government. Population growth has impacted the courts in all case types from adoptions to divorces to contract disputes to criminal activity. Additionally, law enforcement is putting an extra emphasis on eliminating gang activity which has also increased the need for judicial officers. The court, with support of the local County Commissioners, was successful in securing the allocation of an additional judicial officer as well as state funding for the position. The state funds one-half of the judicial position and all related benefits. Franklin County has also allocated funds to fill the position beginning July of 2014.

Counties only pay one-half of the salary of a Superior Court judge. The other one-half, together with fringe benefits and taxes, is paid by the state. The county cost for a full-time Superior Court judge is only \$75,904.50. Franklin County is responsible for about one-third of that portion. Thus, the cost to Benton County tax payers for their share of a Superior Court judge is about \$51,000.00. That cost will easily be offset by jail costs that will be avoided. The Benton County jail estimated billable bed day rate for 2014 is projected at about \$63.72 per day to house a prisoner while the prisoner is waiting to be sentenced to the Department of Corrections. Current workloads cause delays in criminal sentencing of up to 20 days. The cost per defendant for a 20-day delay is estimated to be \$1,274.40. In 2012 there were approximately 50 defendants with delayed sentencing to state institutions. Thus, the addition of a seventh judge will save the taxpayers up to \$63,720.00, annually, based on delays in sentencing alone. Other efficiencies will be realized for civil as well as criminal litigants.

The Court is also requesting to increase the part-time Court Commissioner position from approximately .50 FTE to 1 FTE enabling the Court Commissioner to be available for non-criminal hearings, dockets and settlement conferences due to the increased judicial time needed for criminal matters and trials. This increased position will also assist with the Legal Financial Obligations (LFO) and child support dockets. The LFO docket has proven to recoup a substantial increase in paid fines, fees and restitution since its inception. The cost of the increased Court Commissioner time will be offset by increased collections.

In January of 2003 Benton County funded a pilot Adult Drug Court Program and in September of 2003 the Superior Court was awarded a 3-year federally funded grant to operate a Bi-County Adult Drug Court Program serving approximately 45-50 individuals. The grant concluded in February of 2007 and to date no on-going sustainability funding has been identified. Currently the Court has a reduced level Adult Drug Court serving 30 participants.

The Adult Drug Court is available to those individuals charged with a first time drug offense and who qualify under the drug court criteria. The individuals are required to adhere to strict program requirements including weekly court hearings, counseling, treatment, self-improvement (employment, schooling, parenting classes, etc.) and upon completion of the program and payment of the drug court fees, their felony charge is dismissed. The Drug Court is comprised of a Superior Court Judge, a Deputy Prosecutor from each county, a defense attorney, a substance abuse counselor, law enforcement representative, Drug Court Coordinator and Case Manager.

Statistically based studies have proven that drug courts nationwide reduce felony recidivism and create a long-term cost savings to not only the

county, but the community and state as well. Savings are realized in reduced jail costs, social service and medical costs, foster care costs, and long term costs related to drug addicted babies born to drug addicts. Drug Courts return contributing members of society back into the community and set an example of sobriety for future generations.

The Benton and Franklin Juvenile Justice Center (BFJJC) adjudicates all legal matters concerning children 0-18 years of age. Juvenile proceedings are part of the Superior Court of Washington scheduled through the Legal Process Unit. Juvenile offenders may, based on their prior criminal history and alleged or adjudicated offense be referred to Diversion or Community Supervision Units. Offenders may also be held in detention prior to, or following court hearings. The BFJJC includes a 24/7 secure detention facility and detention alternative programming. Youth who are dependent, at-risk and truant also receive formal court services and intervention programming. The Bi-County at-risk youth population age 10-17 has continued to grow over the last five years. In 2012, law enforcement agencies from both counties referred 2,069 cases to juvenile court. Benton County agencies comprised the majority (74%) of the referrals. As the at-risk youth population continues to increase and additional law enforcement officers are added to local agencies the number of referrals to juvenile court and the demand for already scarce resources will increase.

In 2010, the Court responding to budget reductions had to reduce the amount of time that youth are supervised in the community. Many youth who should have received 6 to 12 months of probation are only being placed on 3 months of probation. Probation Counselors are much less effective at intervening with youth who commit crime because of the very limited time they have to work with youth and families. Additionally, the limited time on supervision often does not allow for youth to be involved in evidenced based programming such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT).

Crimes involving gang involved youth continue to create concern in this community. Currently, 25% of youth on probation are gang involved, 50% of the youth committed to state custody are gang involved and 63% of the youth declined to adult court are gang involved. In addition, 70% of the youth assigned to the Selective Aggressive Probation (SAP) program are gang involved. The addition of a Juvenile Probation Counselor to the SAP program will provide this court the ability to increase the SAP caseload from 15 to 30-40 youth. In addition, we will also be able to increase suppression and intervention efforts with gang involved youth and begin to increase time on supervision for select youth.

The Juvenile Drug Court program impacts the long term recidivism rates of juvenile offenders and saves the Counties and State funding over time. Juvenile Drug court provides intensive supervision, accountability, support and treatment for youth that have exhibited criminal behavior due to substance abuse and have met the criteria established by the drug court. The program enjoys wide community support and is supported by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in both counties. Currently the program is only funded by Benton County and serves 12 youth. We would like to increase the number to 25 youth. The increase in funding would include a Juvenile Probation Counselor III, and increased costs for urinalysis testing, contracted tracking services and court time.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an evidence based program proven to reduce recidivism among our higher risk juvenile offenders whose criminogenic needs match to the intervention. Currently the BFJJC has an in-house FFT therapist and contracts with two additional FFT therapists in the community. The program serves a total of 48 families each year. Current state funding is restrictive and does not accommodate the demand. We have the need and ability to serve another 25 families in this community. The addition of county funding would not only increase capacity but allow the court greater flexibility in serving high risk youth in an early intervention capacity.

BENTON COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 2 Deputy Clerks and fund support operations. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$117,476.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Clerk is required to attend all hearings scheduled in Benton County Superior Court. The Clerk, by statute, is the keeper of the records for Benton County Superior Court and is responsible for filing and maintaining all case files, documents, exhibits and search warrants for adult and juvenile felony cases.

The addition of officers throughout Benton County will inevitably increase the amount of filings and hearings in the Clerks office. In addition to the officers, there is the potential for additional deputy prosecutors and judicial officers. It is clear that the addition of judicial officers will increase the number of courtrooms that must be staffed by the Clerk's office.

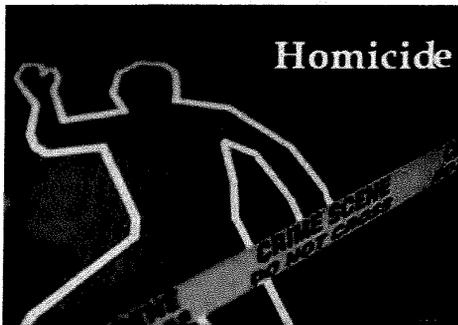
Two other areas in the Clerk's office that will see an increase are the jury department and the front counter. One of the additional deputy clerk's will be utilized to ease the congestion at the front counter providing better service to the general public.

BENTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to fund 1 Judge Protem position, fund additional support staff, fund professional services, jury fees, and fund equipment purchases. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$159,300.

Explanation for the Need:

District Court processes all infraction, misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor charges from all the law enforcement agencies in Benton County. The costs to perform these services have increased yearly without any budgetary provisions. With the future increase in police officers it will be necessary to increase District Court staff to handle the additional workload. The Public Safety Sales tax will help pay for interpreter services, jury costs, printing of court forms and a judge pro-tem.



BENTON COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 Deputy Coroner. The tax will fund this position at an annual cost estimated to be \$72,000.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Coroner's Office is tasked with determining the cause and manner of death for individuals who die in unusual, violent or suspicious circumstances. The office provides county-wide coverage with the elected coroner, one full-time employee and two part-time employees.

There has been a significant increase in coroner deaths and investigations over the past several years. In 2005 there were 838 coroner deaths and 258 investigations. By 2012 the number of deaths had risen to 986 and there were 443 investigations.

The Public Safety Sales Tax will provide funding for an under-staffed office, allow for

increased training, better serve families of the deceased, and allow for more accreditation by the WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENSE

Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 staff defender in Superior Court, 1 contract defender in District Court, 1 legal assistant, 1 support staff member, and convert the Office Manager to a supervisory position. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$215,330.

Explanation for the Need:

The Benton County Office of Public Defense ("OPD") provides public defense services to all cases in Benton County District and Superior Courts (Including Juvenile Court) where public defense is mandated by state law or the Constitution. While this mostly consists of criminal cases, public defense services are also provided on certain civil and specialty cases including mental health involuntary treatment, child support contempt, juvenile dependency actions, and Drug Court cases.

In recent years, the caseload at OPD has averaged in excess of 5,500 adult cases. OPD provides public defense representation through a combination of Staff Defenders and contracted private attorneys.

The proposed funding to OPD is based on the following factors:

Anticipated increase in caseload: If the ballot measure is approved, there will be a substantial increase in line-level law enforcement staffing in Benton County. Between the municipal agencies and the Sheriff's Office, the anticipated increase would total 32 officers and deputies. While there would probably be some variance in the assignments of these 32 personnel, the majority of them would likely be assigned to patrol duties. With an increase in law enforcement personnel of this significance, the opportunities for pro-active policing is sure to go up, resulting in a larger volume of criminal case filings and more cases for which OPD will be required to provide public defense services.

Increasing number of Staff Defenders: OPD has been increasing the number of Staff Defenders employed in the office in recent years. This has allowed for improved flexibility and responsiveness in dealing with case representation issues and, of significant fiscal benefit to the County, has allowed a greater number of homicide cases to be handled "in-house" (thereby avoiding the \$75 per hour charge that is paid to contract attorneys for such cases). At the same time, OPD's administrative duties have increased substantially because of, among other things, increased audit responsibilities (spurred by new Public Defense Standards and changes in contract compensation structures) and an ongoing cost-saving paperless initiative in the office. Additional support staff is very important in making sure that OPD's Staff Defenders can be effective in doing their jobs and OPD can continue to fulfill its administrative oversight mandates.

RESERVE FUND

Benton County has declared their intent to use any remaining monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to help reduce jail expenses, mental health services for jail inmates, and re-entry services and programming for jail inmates. The tax will fund these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$367,631.

Explanation for the Need:

Correctional facilities are not typically designed or staffed for handling inmates with mental health issues. The Benton County Jail has experienced a tremendous increase in the number of inmates who suffer from mental health issues. These inmates require special services, housing medications, monitoring and uniquely trained staff.

Re-entry services are part of a holistic approach used by the Jail to reduce inmate recidivism. Reconnecting inmates with the basic services they need to be a functional member of society has a direct impact on if or how long before a particular individual may re-offend. This service requires staffing to help identify housing, medical resources, employment opportunities, transportation services, and other community services. The State of Washington passed a bill several years ago specifically for inmate re-entry services. The amount allotted for these services continues to be reduced year after year while the demand or need continues to rise.

The Public Safety Sales Tax will provide funding for these services. These services are critical to help people receive the services they need, and will help reduce inmate recidivism - therefore keeping criminal justice system costs down.

Kennewick Residents

The City of Kennewick has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 15 commissioned officers. One Assistant City Attorney and 2 Support Staff positions will be hired to support these positions and meet other needs in the Department. The tax will fund all these positions at an annual cost estimated to be \$1,931,406.



In addition, Kennewick residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.

Explanation for the Need:

The City of Kennewick's population has grown by 19,000 people in the past ten years. It has 1.22 officers per 1,000 city residents, a rate that has been declining since the early 2000s. The city has remained under the state average of 1.68 officers per 1,000 residents for at least the past seven years. There has been a net gain of one police officer in the past ten years.

Kennewick, not unlike other parts of the state and country, has been plagued by criminal gang activity during the past ten years. Over the last ten years the Department's total call activity has increased by 5%. Due to the complexity of investigating criminal gang activity, changes in the law requiring officers having to obtain search warrants that were not previously required, and dealing with felony activity, the time it takes police officers to deal with these types of activity has increased by approximately 25%. This has reduced the officer's ability to be more preventative and responsive to general types of crimes that are not in progress.

In 2004 when the police department put together the very successful Criminal Apprehension Team (CAT) consisting of a Sergeant, Corporal and four detectives, those resources were taken from existing personnel. The first year the team made over 1,000 arrests, resulting in the addition of two more detectives, for a total allotment of 8. All were from existing resources impacting other areas of the Department. To date they have not been able to back fill those positions. In a positive note CAT has consistently made over 1,000 arrests each year since 2004 and their primary focus has always been criminal gang activity and street level narcotics (the lower level that the Metro Drug Task Force does not focus on).

Due to proper management of its resources, Kennewick has been successful in reducing its crime rate. Over the past 10 years it has declined from 51.2 crimes per 1,000 residents to 35.9 crimes per 1,000 residents. "We still live in a very safe community" Chief Ken Hohenberg said. He adds the true challenge is how to keep it that way. The Public Safety Sales Tax will help by filling necessary positions within the Department.

Richland Residents

The City of Richland has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 6 commissioned officers. Three support staff positions will be hired to support these new police officer positions and meet other needs in the Department. The tax will fund all these positions at an annual cost estimated to be \$1,224,000.

In addition, Richland residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.



Explanation for the Need:

The City of Richland's population has grown by 8,000 people in the past ten years to 51,440 in 2014. In 2004 the City of Richland was authorized 58 sworn police officer positions. Today the Richland Police Department has 59 sworn police officers, an addition of 1 position in the last decade. The current state average of sworn police officers is 1.68 officers per 1,000 residents. Richland is currently at 1.14 officers per 1,000 residents.

In addition to this unusually low ratio, it should be noted that the landscape of policing has changed drastically. Changes in case law and the complexity of criminal behavior, have forced law enforcement to find ways to work harder and smarter. These complex investigations and ever changing laws translate into more dedicated policing time and less time in a proactive capacity. Proactivity is the cornerstone of policing allowing officers to spend more time in neighborhoods, enforcing traffic laws, and connecting with the community.

South Richland has seen tremendous growth in the past several years. Both residential and commercial development has increased and the calls for police service have risen proportionately. The annexation of Badger South has brought close to 1,500 acres of future development to the city. The location of Badger South has made access very challenging for public safety. Located on the back side of Badger Mountain, emergency personnel must travel through two neighboring jurisdictions while responding to calls for service in that area. With projected growth, South Richland will become a growing need for police services and the Richland Police Department will need to be strategically located within the South Richland area to meet those growing needs.

The Public Safety Sales Tax provides an opportunity for the Richland Police Department to continue to offer a balanced approach to law enforcement services. With a focus on both law enforcement and crime prevention, the Richland community can continue to be one of the safest cities in the Tri-City Region. Our unique needs mandate that we focus on criminal behavior, crime prevention, traffic safety, and code enforcement. The Public Safety Sales Tax is a framework which preserves the quality of life that Richland enjoys.

West Richland Residents

The City of West Richland has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 3 to 4 commissioned officers at an annual cost estimated to be \$330,200.

In addition, West Richland residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.



Explanation for the Need:

The City of West Richland is a growing community predominately residential in nature. It has a current population (2013) of 13,080 with an average annual growth rate of more than 3%. Since 1994 West Richland has grown by more than 7,500 residents. During this same time period the West Richland Police Department has gone from 10 commissioned officers to 16 commissioned officers with one of those officers assigned to METRO Drug Task Force. While the West Richland Police Department makes every effort to meet the needs of the community the continued growth in population is outpacing the necessary growth of the police department to meet the increased law enforcement needs of the citizens.

“Continually Striving for Safer Community” is the vision of the West Richland Police Department. Inherent in community safety is to appropriately staff levels on each shift to meet the citizen needs should they call to report a crime or need assistance. Most residents when asked how many officers are working on a shift will state three or four officers. The reality is more than 150 shifts in 2013 were staffed by one officer for more than four hours. Community and officer safety are enhanced by having more than one officer staffing each and every shift improving back-up for on duty officers while providing more available time to the officer for investigation and community safety activities.

The citizens of West Richland share in the benefits of having the lowest crime rate within the Tri-Cities. Our city boundaries are shared with the City of Richland and we are a very short drive from Kennewick and Pasco. Each of these cities have seen a rise in criminal gang activity some of this activity violent in nature. Our location and residential design make our community a potential target for property crime, but does guard us to a certain degree from the violence associated with criminal gang activity. However, our location is no guarantee that gang activity won't develop without proactive efforts to stop its influence. In addition, the benefits of this low crime rate though must be guarded and worked to maintain. As our population grows we must meet the service needs of the community with sufficient staff resources to enhance community outreach in areas of crime prevention, intervention and proactive criminal enforcement.

Prosser Residents

The City of Prosser has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to hire 1 commissioned officer, a part-time support staff member, and fund training and technical programs at an annual cost estimated to be \$140,400.

In addition, Prosser residents will also receive benefits from the sales tax outlined [here](#) for all Benton County residents.

Explanation for the Need:

One of the major threats to our public safety is the vulnerability of the schools located within our jurisdiction. Having appropriate police presence in our community's schools serves two important public safety goals: 1) Having armed personnel and trained eyes and ears in place acts as a deterrent to individuals who would bring violence to our schools. 2) Through interacting and observing, trained staff can proactively head-off violent incidents from ever happening. In addition, Prosser's number one priority garnered from citizen surveys and from the direction of City Council is the prevention and suppression of gang activity.

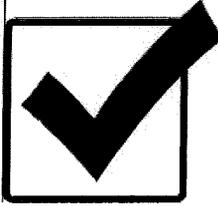


The Public Safety Sales Tax monies will allow the Prosser Police Department to place a trained imbedded officer within the Prosser School District (PSD) as a School Resource Officer (SRO). This SRO will work closely with the PSD and fill a significant blind spot that we currently have in regards to public safety.

Additionally, one of the biggest issues the Prosser Police Department faces as a small agency is to provide adequate police coverage around the clock. When the dispatch operation closed for fiscal reasons, it fell to police officers to pick up all or most of the entry of reports and alerts that Prosser Dispatch had done for them in the past. Currently patrol officers are spending at least 20% of their shift entering report data. The Public Safety Sales Tax monies will allow hiring a full time records support person, which will result in an expected 15% increase in police contacts across the board including traffic stops, DUIs, and responses to citizen inquiries.

Mutual aid between the Prosser Police Department and other law enforcement agencies that are not on the Southeast Communications Center (SECOMM) system, such as Washington State Patrol, Yakima County Sheriffs and the City of Grandview, are critical. With the right type of equipment our officers for example can request SECOMM to soft patch their radios to the responding State Patrol's frequency so that mutual assistance can be managed correctly. The Public Safety Sales Tax monies will allow creation and maintenance of a system to allow interoperable communications with all the agencies that are worked with on a regular basis.

How You Can Help



First and foremost you can help by voting to approve the Public Safety Sales Tax on August 5, 2014. The ballot measure will appear during the primary election.

Financial contributions are greatly appreciated. An account for Citizens for Safe Communities has been opened at the Bank of the West branch on Columbia Center Blvd at Canal. Or feel free to contact us to make other arrangements for a contribution. It costs money for us to get the message out and inform voters on this very important issue. A contribution in any amount is helpful.

If you are interested in actively helping the campaign by placing a yard sign, helping our other volunteers on doorbelling efforts or staffing kiosk information booths, please contact us and we will be in touch with you.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Updates and Media Releases

Read the following stories related to the Public Safety Sales Tax:

* TCH 02-26-14 "Benton County may ask voters to pass criminal justice sales tax"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/02/25/2847574/benton-county-may-ask-voters-to.html>

* TCH 03-02-14 "Filling the Need; Sales tax sought to fund creation of mental health court"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/01/2854477/sales-tax-sought-to-fund-creation.html>

* TCH 03-02-14 "Tax-funded Washington programs seeing success"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/01/2854478/tax-funded-washington-mental-health.html>

* TCH 03-04-14 "Criminal justice tax on ballot"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/04/2858066/criminal-justice-sales-tax-will.html>

* TCH 03-05-14 "Where would the money go if the criminal justice tax is approved?"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/05/2859601/where-would-the-money-go-if-the.html>

* TCH 03-09-14 Editorial "Sales tax vote would help improve mental health court"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/07/2864454/our-voice-sales-tax-vote-would.html>

* TCH 03-16-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/14/2876468/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html>

* TCH 03-16-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/14/2876460/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html>

* TCH 03-19-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/18/2882652/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html>

* TCH 03-21-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/20/2886535/letter-public-safety-tax.html>

* TCH 03-24-14 Letter to the Editor (Mental Health issue)

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/24/2893341/letter-mental-health-court.html?sp=/99/1426/>

* TCH 03-24-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/24/2893343/election-letter-public-safety.html?sp=/99/1426/>

* TCH 03-25-14 "Citizens group to push criminal justice sales tax proposal"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/03/24/2893765/citizens-group-to-push-criminal.html?sp=/99/900/901/>

*TCH 04-22-14 Letter to the Editor

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<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/04/22/2938512/public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 04-29-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/04/29/2949176/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 05-05-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/04/2954392/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 05-05-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/04/2954387/letter-public-safety-tax-yes.html?sp=/99/1426/>

*TCH 05-07-14 "Richland council asked to support tax"

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/06/2960425/richland-council-asked-to-support.html?sp=/99/177/&ihp=1>

*TCH 05-07-14 Letter to the Editor

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/05/06/2959992/election-letter-public-safety.html?sp=/99/1426/>

0 records

Friday, May 9, 2014

Click a title for more information.

[[Show All](#) | [Hide All](#)]

Contact Us

Feel free to contact us with your questions. Just fill out the form below and submit.

Citizens for Safe Communities
P. O. Box 303
Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.375.3468

Send Email:

Your E-mail:

Subject:

Message:

~~7YXQJ~~

Please enter the code shown above
and click Submit.

Submit

Approve
the Public
Safety
Sales Tax

CITIZENS FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

Primary
Election
August 5th

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 - [Authority for a Public Safety Tax](#)
 - [Movement for a Ballot Measure](#)

- [Specifics of the Ballot Measure](#)
 - [Ballot Measure Wording](#)
 - [Resolution Approved by Commissioners](#)
 - [Anticipated Revenue](#)

- [How the Revenue will be Spent](#)

- [What Your Money Gets You](#)

- [Tax Rate Comparisons](#)

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 - [Kennewick Residents](#)
 - [Richland Residents](#)
 - [West Richland Residents](#)
 - [Prosser Residents](#)

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- [Updates and Media Releases](#)

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How You Can Help

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If you are interested in actively helping the campaign by placing a yard sign, helping our other volunteers on doorbelling efforts or staffing kiosk information booths, please contact us and we will be in touch with you.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Committee Members

Honorary Chairpersons:

Bill McCurley
*Chairman,
McCurley Integrity
Dealerships*

Bill Lampson
*President,
Lampson International*

Kris Watkins
*President & CEO,
Tri-Cities Visitor &
Convention Bureau*

Ana Armijo
*Benton County
Superior Court
Interpreter/Translator*

Paul Warden
*Mayor,
City of Prosser*

Karen McGinnis
*Director,
HAMMER Training
Ctr., MSA*

Craig D. Eerkes
*President,
Sun Pacific Energy*

*Steering
Committee:*

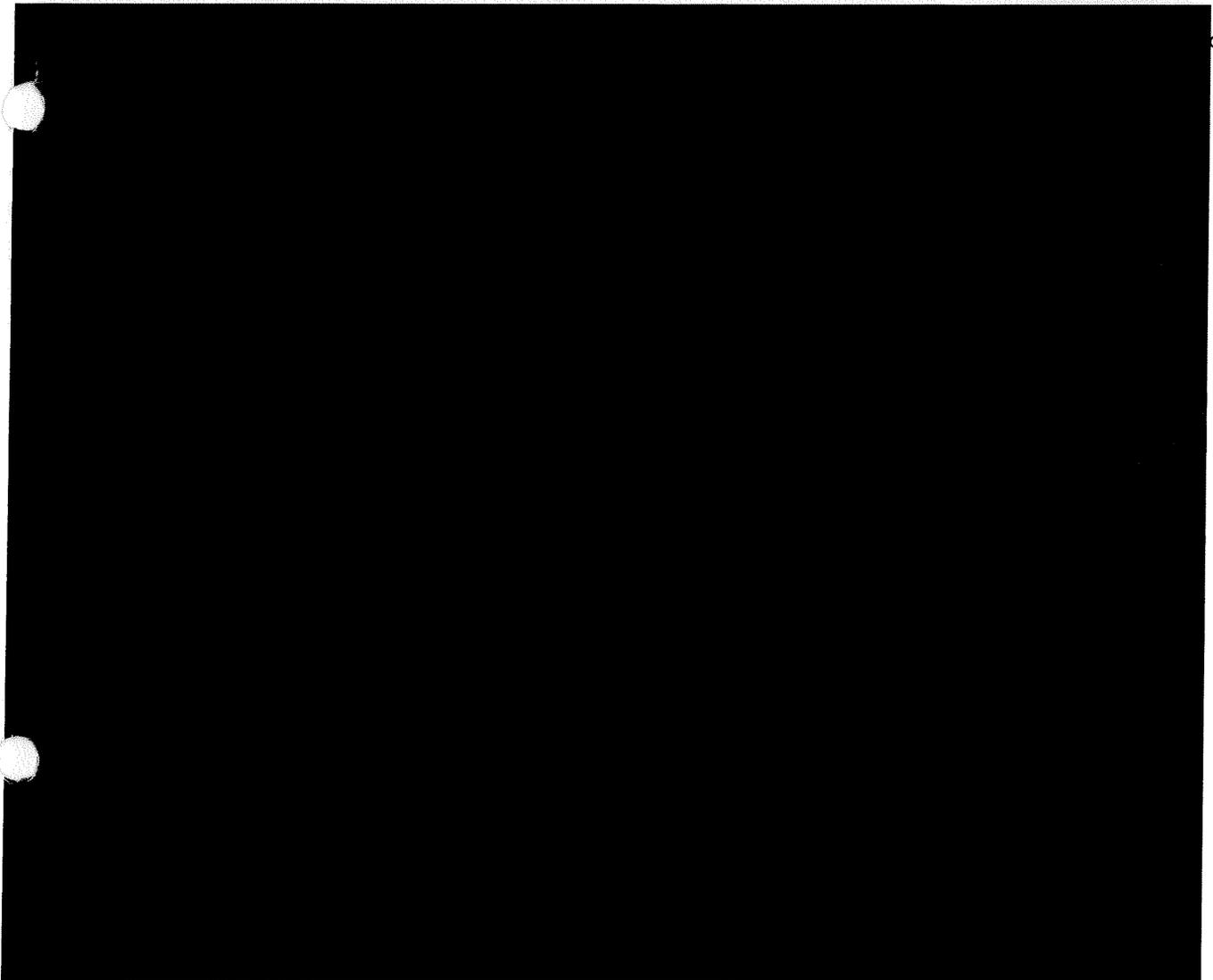
Ken Hohenberg
*Kennewick
Police Chief*

Andy Miller
*Benton County
Prosecutor*

Josie Delvin
*Benton County
Clerk*

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EXHIBIT 12



Agenda
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard
Tuesday, May 06, 2014

Pre-Meeting Executive Session: 6:00 p.m.

(Discussion Only) - Annex Building

1. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.140 (4): Discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations (60 minutes)
- Cindy Johnson, City Manager - Allison Jubb, Human Resources Director

City Council Pre-Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

(Discussion Only - Annex Building)

1. Review of Meeting Agenda

City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

(City Hall Council Chamber)

Welcome and Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Agenda:

(Approved by Motion)

Presentations:

1. Public Safety Sales Tax Presentation by Citizens for Safe Communities (15 minutes)
2. Older Americans Month Proclamation to the Aging and Long Term Care Advisory Council
3. New Hire Introductions
- Allison Jubb, Human Resources Director

Public Comments:

(Please Limit Public Comments to 2 Minutes)

Consent Calendar:

(Approved in its entirety by single vote or Council may pull Consent items and transfer to Items of Business)

Minutes - Approval:

1. Council Minutes for Meetings Held April 15; 22; and 29, 2014
- Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

Resolutions - Adoption:

2. Resolution No. 39-14, Award Bid to Watts Construction for Canyon Street Reconstruction Project
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
3. Resolution No. 40-14, Award Bid to Ray Poland & Sons, Inc. for Research District Sidewalk Project
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
4. Resolution No. 50-14, Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Benton County for Aerial Photography
- Jon Amundson, Assistant City Manager
5. Resolution No. 51-14, Appointments to the Code Enforcement Board: Danny La Plante, Polly Parton and Charles M. Lowery
- Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk
6. Resolution No. 52-14, Appointment to the Economic Development Committee: Deanna Hawkins
- Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk
7. Resolution No. 53-14, Express Appreciation to John Thomas for Service on the Economic Development Committee
- Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk
8. Resolution No. 56-14, Reject all Bids Received for Leslie Groves Regional Infiltration Facility Project
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
9. Resolution No. 57-14, Approve the HOME Program 2014 Funding as Part of the 2014 Annual Action Plan
- Bill King, Deputy City Manager
10. Resolution No. 59-14, Authorize the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the Cities of Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, and West Richland, and Benton and Franklin Counties, to Renew the Hanford Communities Agreement
- Pam Larson, Hanford Communities Manager
11. Resolution No. 60-14, Approve the Community Development Block Grant 2014 Funding as Part of the 2014 Annual Action Plan
- Bill King, Deputy City Manager
12. Resolution No. 61-14, Approve the Consultant Agreement with CH2M Hill for Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
13. Resolution No. 63-14, Adopt Polar Way as the Name for a New Street
- Rick Simon, Development Services Manager
14. Resolution No. 64-14, Authorization to Circulate a Petition for the LaPierre Annexation
- Rick Simon, Development Services Manager

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15. Resolution No. 66-14, Adopting the Relocation Process as part of the City's Right of Way Procedure
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
16. Resolution No. 71-14, Appreciation to Tim Kupfer for Service on the Code Enforcement Board
- Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk
17. Resolution No. 72-14, Approving the Final Carr Plat
- Rick Simon, Development Services Manager
18. Resolution No. 73-14, Approving the Brantingham Heights Phase 4 Final Plat
- Rick Simon, Development Services Manager

Items for Approval:

19. Park Partnership Program 2014 Fund Allocations
- Phil Pinard, Planning and Capital Projects Manager

Expenditures - Approval:

20. April 7, 2014 - April 25, 2014, for \$9,181,695.30, including Check Nos. 211166-211736, Wire Nos. 5605-5619, Payroll Check Nos. 99413-99445, and Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 8467-8516
- Cathleen Koch, Administrative Services Director

Items of Business:

1. Resolution No. 62-14, Approve Grant Applications to the Recreation and Conservation Office
- Phil Pinard, Planning and Capital Projects Manager

Reports and Comments:

1. City Manager
2. City Council
3. Mayor

Adjournment

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PLANNING AND EXPOSURE COMMISSION

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2. City Council
3. Mayor

Adjournment

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Richland council asked to support tax

By Sara Schilling, Tri-City Herald May 6, 2014

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A sales tax on the ballot in Benton County this summer would help meet public safety needs in Richland and throughout the county, supporters said Tuesday.

The advocates -- a local police chief, a prosecutor and recently-retired police captain -- made their case for the sales tax to the Richland City Council, which will consider entertaining a resolution in support.

The sales tax will be on the ballot in the county Aug. 5. The Kennewick and Prosser councils already have approved resolutions related to the measure, and the West Richland council is expected to vote on one soon.

If successful, the measure will add three pennies to a \$10 purchase, raising money for public safety-related programs, services and personnel.

"The cities (will) benefit greatly from this," said Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg on Tuesday. He's part of Citizens for Safe Communities, a group that's formed to promote the sales tax.

He spoke with the Richland council, along with Benton County Prosecutor Andy Miller and Al Wehner, who retired last week as a Richland police captain.

The sales tax would expire after 10 years.

In March, county commissioners agreed to send the proposal to the primary ballot.

With the measure, "we have the opportunity to shape the criminal justice system over the next 10 years in a very positive way," Wehner said. "The county commissioners have recognized that, and I believe the city governments will recognize that, and we hope the voters will recognize that. Because this is a very unique opportunity."

The money raised from the sales tax would be divided among Benton County and its cities, with the county getting 60 percent and Kennewick, Richland, West Richland and Prosser splitting the rest based on population.

Richland, which has seen its population swell in the last decade, would use its share to add six more police positions and three support positions.

It also would benefit from countywide programs and services paid for through the sales tax, from a mental health court to criminal gang prevention efforts, Hohenberg said.

Miller noted part of the county's portion would go to a dedicated gang prosecutor.

Citizens for Safe Communities, which has a website at www.citizens4safecommunities.com, has raised more than \$11,000.

Another group, Benton County Citizens for Efficient Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement, has formed to oppose the sales tax measure. As of Tuesday, no fundraising activity was posted on the state Public Disclosure Commission's website.

-- Sara Schilling: 582-1529; sschilling@tricityherald.com; Twitter: [@saraTCHerald](https://twitter.com/saraTCHerald)

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Benton County's top cops endorse public safety sales tax

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Benton County Sheriff Steve Keane, center, speaks Tuesday during a news conference to announce local law enforcement officials' endorsement of the 0.3 percent public safety sales tax on the August ballot. From L to R, Prosser Police Chief David Giles, Richland Police Chief Chris Skinner, Keane, Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg and West Richland Police Chief Brian McElroy.

TRI-CITY HERALD

A proposed sales tax on the August ballot in Benton County would strengthen public safety and benefit the entire community, the county's top law enforcement officials said Tuesday.

Sheriff Steve Keane and the Kennewick, Richland, West Richland and Prosser police chiefs signed a statement during a lunchtime event endorsing the three-tenths of 1 percent tax.

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"The ballot measure is a comprehensive approach to improving our criminal justice system. It offers a balance between enforcement and prevention," Keane said during the event.

If approved, the tax would add three pennies to a \$10 purchase.

The money raised through the measure would go to public safety programs and personnel, with the county using 60 percent and the cities sharing the rest based on population.

All told, 32 police officers would be added, along with another Superior Court judge, two deputy prosecutors and an assistant city attorney in Kennewick.

Revenue from the sales tax also would support the existing Tri-City Metro Drug Task Force and adult and juvenile drug court programs, and pay for a new mental health court program.

Money also would be dedicated to criminal gang prevention and intervention efforts.

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EXHIBIT 15

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From: Eric Hsu <Eric.Hsu@co.benton.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 8:54 AM
Subject: Meeting reminder and draft of Strategic Plan for review
Attachments: Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax.pdf

Dear Law & Justice Council members

This is a reminder that we will be having our normally scheduled meeting next Wednesday, the 25th of September, at noon in the Benton County Sheriff's Office's Training room. As usual, if you might arrive a few minutes early it will probably facilitate your entry into the facility since the Sheriff's Office closes at noon for the lunch hour. If you should arrive late, please just knock on the door since there are still support staff present who will be able to open the door for you.

Attached to this email, please find the Strategic Plan that Capt Wehner has graciously volunteered his time to draft. I think this clearly and appropriately sets out both time frames and steps for moving forward on the Criminal Justice Sales Tax ballot measure, but also some clear parameters on the role of the Law and Justice Council. Between now and the meeting, please take the time to review it in detail so that it can be addressed, and presented for formal adoption by the Council, at the meeting on the 25th.

Thanks

Eric

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Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

*A proposal on how to move forward to promote the 2014
Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax*

Prepared by Al Wehner

9/16/2013

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Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Preface

During the August 28, 2013 Benton County Law and Justice Council (BCLJC) meeting, it was requested that I prepare a strategic plan, complete with necessary tasks, deadlines and recommendations, on how to proceed with the proposed 2014 Benton County criminal justice sales tax measure. This plan will be presented during the September 25, 2013 BCLJC meeting. BCLJC members will receive a copy prior to that meeting. The plan will be discussed, and changes likely made to it, during that meeting.

Up to this point, the Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) has recommended that the Benton County Commissioners (Commissioners) place before the voters of Benton County a ballot measure for a criminal justice sales tax in the amount of 0.3 percent. The Commissioners support that recommendation, and have asked for assistance in preparing a resolution that would set the process in motion. The BCLJC has been asked to provide to Commissioners a recommendation for a ballot title and wording, and on which election (primary or general) it should be presented to voters. This plan identifies issues the BCLJC should consider in making those recommendations (refer to Section B, page 7 of this plan).

There is also a need to develop a strategy on how to promote the ballot measure for successful passage. This is a separate function from the BCLJC, and should fall under the auspices of a campaign committee. This plan includes various issues the campaign committee should consider in promoting the ballot measure (refer to Section C, page 11 of this plan).

This plan will be reviewed by BCLJC members, as it relates to their BCLJC function, who include; law enforcement, judges, court staff, juvenile justice representatives, county and municipal representatives, elected officials, and citizens. It may also be read by individuals who serve on the campaign committee, as it relates to their involvement in promoting the ballot measure. Readers will have different levels of knowledge and understanding of the issues involved in the criminal justice sales tax. Consequently, it is necessary to incorporate into the plan relevant background information to help the reader better understand those issues.

This plan is designed to serve as a starting point for both the BCLJC and campaign committee. Recommendations offered are based upon my knowledge and experience in campaign matters. Persons participating in this effort, who have political experience, are encouraged to offer their insight and opinions. It is anticipated the plan will be changed as needed in order to ensure successful passage of the measure.

Passage of this measure is critically important to the criminal justice system in Benton County. Difficult decisions will need to be made. A lot of hard work and effort is needed to succeed. This plan is presented to serve as a starting point to help in this endeavor.

Al Wehner

Section A: General Information

General information on the background and development of the sales tax issue, with other pertinent factors or considerations, include:

Authority for a Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Unlike a property tax, a sales tax is shared not only by those who reside in the county, but also by those visiting the county. In a November 2009 editorial the Tri-City Herald offered its opinion that "It (sales tax versus property tax) seemed like a fair way to find money for improvements to public safety."

Sales and use taxes for counties and cities are authorized by RCW 82.14.450. It reads "A county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters at a *primary or general election* and, if approved by a *majority of persons voting*, impose a sales and use tax."

The rate of tax under this section may not exceed three-tenths (0.3) of one percent (1%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax. One-third of all money received under this section must be used solely for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purposes, or both. Sixty percent (60%) of the money received must be retained by the county and forty percent (40%) must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county.

The definition of criminal justice purposes is set forth in RCW 82.14.340. It reads "Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section must be expended for criminal justice purposes. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system . . ."

History of Local Criminal Justice Sales Tax Attempts

Benton County

Benton County voters twice, in 2007 and 2008, rejected a 0.2% criminal justice sales tax. The 2007 measure was supported by forty-eight percent (48%) of the voters.

The 2008 general election ballot measure, also for a 0.2% sales tax, was supported by only forty-two (42%) of the voters. If passed, the monies would have been used to provide sustainable funding to; hire more law enforcement officers (KPD: 6 officers, RPD: 5 officers, BCSO: 10 deputies/ corrections staff), hire more clerks in District and Superior courts, hire two deputy prosecutors and one legal secretary, match federal money to support programs at the Juvenile Justice Center like juvenile drug family treatment court, probation and family violence intervention, cover the costs of adult drug court, help fund a mental health court, and provide for in-jail mental health treatment. This campaign effort was self-admittedly a "low key approach," and it was identified that some voters weren't fully aware of what the ballot measure was or how it was going to affect them.¹

¹ Tri-City Herald: "Criminal justice sales tax hike rejected," November 5, 2008

Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Franklin County

In the 2009 general election, fifty-two percent (52%) of the voters rejected a 0.3% public safety tax that would have helped pay for a jail expansion, a new police station, a new municipal court, and other needed infrastructure fixes. There was no organized opposition to the tax increase, nor was there any noticeable organized movement to support the measure.² The county failed to identify a specific project plan for the jail expansion.³ In its November 10, 2009 editorial, the Tri-City Herald opined "Public safety should be the No. 1 concern of residents. If your hometown is not a safe place to live, little else matters." A similar measure also failed in 2002.

In 2011 Franklin County decided to again place a 0.3% criminal justice sales tax measure on the general election ballot. It should be noted that this was during a time frame in which the general consensus was that most voters would reject tax increases.

The 2011 ballot measure was requested by that county's Law and Justice Council. There was initial discussion about using some of the sales tax for juvenile justice. That suggestion was countered with the argument that the proposed sales tax would barely cover the cost for a new jail, that adding juvenile justice to the proposal would "dilute" it (with claims that is what happened when the measure failed in 2002), and that county residents were already paying a 0.1% sales tax that was used to build the juvenile justice center.⁴

It should also be noted that during the same time period that the Law and Justice Council was recommending a criminal justice sales tax ballot measure (March 2011), Benton and Franklin county commissioners were also considering a separate local sales tax increase. Washington state law provides county commissioners the authority to raise local sales tax by 0.1% to pay for mental health programs without a vote. But because voters in both counties several times had rejected similar tax increases to pay for criminal justice programs, commissioners were reluctant to exercise their power.⁵

The 2011 criminal justice ballot measure ultimately read that the sales tax would be used for jail expansion, gang suppression, building a new police station, and new municipal court space. Having apparently learned from their previous failures, for this effort the county obtained a project plan with specific estimates from an architectural firm for the jail expansion. Public tours of the overcrowded jail were offered for the first time. Focus was placed on how the sales tax would help the gang suppression effort by law enforcement. This time, the 30-year sales tax was supported by almost sixty-two percent (62%) of the voters.

² *Tri-City Herald: "Tax hike to pay for Franklin County public safety failing," November 4, 2009*

³ *Tri-City Herald: "Criminal justice tax heads to Franklin Co. ballot," July 22, 2011*

⁴ *Tri-City Herald: "Law and justice council presses for sales tax," March 19, 2011*

⁵ *Tri-City Herald: "Counties weigh raising sales tax for mental health services," March 22, 2011*

Movement for a 2014 Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Ballot Measure

The impetus to again present a criminal justice sales tax to Benton County voters is based upon the need to obtain sustainable funding to aid the currently under-funded criminal justice function, and was encouraged by the success of the 2011 Franklin County effort.

The Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) was formed in September 2012. It was comprised of county residents approved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners. Their stated purpose was to operate fully independent of the BCLJC, and/or any government entities represented by that council, to analyze and review all aspects of the Benton County criminal justice system. They were to make a recommendation to county commissioners on whether or not a criminal justice sales tax should be submitted to voters. If their analysis identified the need for a sales tax, they were asked to provide a recommendation on whether it should be 0.1%, 0.2%, or 0.3%.

In August 2013 the Advisory Committee recommended to county commissioners that a criminal justice sales tax in the amount of 0.3% is needed to meet the county's current and future criminal justice needs. They recommended a ballot measure in that amount be placed before the voters of Benton County. The committee identified that a sales tax at that rate would generate a total annual funding source of from \$9 million to \$9.6 million. A breakdown of that total includes (low/high estimates shown):

- Benton County: \$5.4 million/ \$5.7 million
- Kennewick: \$1.8 million/ \$1.9 million
- Richland: \$1.2 million/ \$1.3 million
- West Richland: \$309,600/ \$330,200
- Prosser: \$140,400/ \$149,800
- Benton City: \$82,800/ \$88,300

The Advisory Committee found the needs of the municipalities would be met with the identified funding. However, the committee believed the funding to be allocated to the county would be in excess of the needs that were identified by county department heads and elected officials whom they interviewed⁶. The committee recommended the excess from the county's portion be used for:

- Creation of a mental health court within the District Court.
- Reduce the cost of shared services (Metro Drug Task Force and Emergency Dispatch) charged to the cities by having the county assume the bulk of these services.
- Reduce the daily jail rate charged to the cities.
- Other possible uses include expansion of the Juvenile Justice Center, and creation of a regional gang suppression task force

The Advisory Committee also recommended county commissioners ensure performance audits be conducted on the county programs that receive funding from this sales tax.

⁶ *Benton County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee final report, page 40.*

Upon receiving the Advisory Committee's report, county commissioners questioned why sales tax money was not designated for use by the County Clerk's Office, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, or the Office of Public Defense. The county prosecutor and indigent defense coordinator both told county commissioners they hoped to see criminal justice officials in the county meet to discuss needs system-wide as the process moves forward.⁷

County commissioners supported the idea of sending a measure to voters. They asked staff to prepare a resolution that would set the process in motion, coming back to them for consideration at a future meeting. It appears commissioners are interested in receiving input and recommendations from the Benton County Law and Justice Council for wording of the ballot measure.

Legal Considerations

Public officials involved in supporting or opposing a ballot measure need to be aware of legal restrictions. RCW 42.17A.555 identifies that "No elective official nor any employee of his or her office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the *facilities* of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, *machines*, and *equipment*, *use of employees of the office or agency during working hours*, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency."

The restrictions included in this RCW do not apply to:

- Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body or by an elected board, council, or commission of a special purpose district to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition.
- A statement by an elected official in support of or in opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry.
- Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

We need look no further than Franklin County to see the problems when there are violations, perceived or real, of this statute. The state's Public Disclosure Commission is currently investigating a citizen's complaint that the Pasco School District improperly used public resources during the February 2013 election for a bond issue.

Public officials or employees involved in campaigning for the criminal justice sales tax measure should ensure they adhere to legal restrictions. For example, creation of this plan was done on personal time, using personal equipment. Correspondence on any campaign effort will be done via home e-mail rather than work e-mail. It would be a shame if the hard work of so many people promoting the criminal justice sales tax measure became jeopardized by someone who failed to properly educate themselves on the legal restrictions imposed, or failed to heed those restrictions.

⁷ *Tri-City Herald; Benton commissioners back criminal justice tax," August 6, 2013*

Section B: Role of the Benton County Law and Justice Council (BCLJC)

The BCLJC has a distinct and separate role from the campaign committee. It is appropriate for BCLJC representatives to volunteer their personal time to work on the campaign committee or otherwise promote the criminal justice sales tax measure. But any such campaign effort should be separate from their role on the BCLJC. Other than, perhaps, identifying its support for the sales tax measure (check with legal counsel to ensure even this action would be appropriate), it seems the BCLJC should limit its effort to providing county commissioners with recommendations on the ballot title, specific wording of the ballot measure, and on which election (general or primary) the ballot measure should be offered.

Authority of the Benton County Law and Justice Council (BCLJC)

RCW 72.09.300 authorizes county legislators to create a Law and Justice Council to encourage collaboration among local criminal justice related agencies, as well as with state agencies. It is designed to maximize and share local resources to improve efficiencies without diminishing effectiveness.

Since its creation in 2000, the Benton County Law and Justice Council has addressed issues impacting local criminal justice issues. The BCLJC is comprised of representatives from each of the county's municipal law enforcement agencies, the city attorneys from each of the municipalities, one designee from each of the legislative authorities (city councils) within the county, one designee from each of the county's superior and district courts, one designee from the Department of Corrections, a minimum of three members from the public, and officials from Benton County to include the prosecutor, county commissioner, sheriff, jail commander, risk manager, superior court clerk, coroner, and juvenile court administrator.

Goal of the BCLJC

The goal of the BCLJC should be to provide recommendations on the criminal justice sales tax ballot measure to Benton County Commissioners, to include:

- A recommendation on the title of the ballot measure.
- A recommendation on the wording of the ballot measure. The wording needs to be detailed and concise. This is an important recommendation, as the wording will dictate for what purposes the sales tax monies can or cannot be used.
- A recommendation on the "lifespan" of the sales tax. Research should be conducted into possible legal restrictions on the lifespan for sales taxes. Absent legal restrictions, consideration should be given to what lifespan voters would be most willing to support.
- A recommendation on which 2014 election (primary or general) the ballot measure should be presented to voters.

Considerations to achieve this goal include the following:

Identify stakeholders

It will be necessary to identify all stakeholders (i.e. law enforcement, jail, courts, juvenile justice, prosecutors, indigent defense counsel, domestic violence, drug court, mental health advocates) who may receive possible sales tax monies under the broad umbrella of "criminal justice purposes" (see page 3). The BCLJC should consider convening sub-committee meetings with representatives of these entities. Stakeholders need to concisely identify the specific impact that sales tax monies would have on their respective entities, to include how it would benefit the overall effort to present a persuasive argument for voters to support the ballot measure. Attempts should be made to gain a consensus amongst all stakeholders to support the measure, regardless of whether their particular interests are included.

The dynamics of our criminal justice system are such that changes in any portion are likely to result in corresponding, and sometimes unanticipated, impacts in other areas. Once stakeholders are identified, ballot issues are identified, and anticipated expenditures are defined, it would be prudent for the sub-committee to conduct an additional system-wide analysis of funding usage to ensure that inter-stakeholder impacts are identified, analyzed, and anticipated.

Limit ballot to issues that voters will likely support

Voters have consistently shown their unwillingness to open their wallets to fund "open-ended" ballot measures, even when it comes to supporting the criminal justice system. They are reluctant to pass tax measures that are too broad or are misleading.

The adage "more is better" does not necessarily hold true on the issue of sales tax. To include as many causes as the sales tax may financially support, under the premise that it would appeal to more voters (and therefore give it a better chance of succeeding), is a fallacy. Consider the expansive list of causes that were rejected by Benton County voters in 2007 and 2008, when just a 0.2% sales tax was being voted upon. Also consider the two failed attempts in the 1990's to pass a measure to build a new police station in Richland. On both failed attempts the city included street and traffic light maintenance costs. It only passed when the singular issue of building a new police station, with nothing else added, was presented to voters. Franklin County had this very same, difficult, debate over adding measures that would "dilute" their sales tax effort (see page 4).

If the upcoming ballot measure is presented as a criminal justice sales tax, most voters will naturally have the expectation that it will be used for criminal justices purposes, as they define it. Although some of the stakeholder's interests may meet the technical definition of "criminal justice purposes," many voters will likely reject it as too broad if the ballot measure contains too many "peripheral" issues that voters do not believe meets *their* definition of "criminal justice purposes."

The BCLJC needs to identify a process that fairly evaluates all stakeholder interests (i.e. law enforcement, jail, courts, juvenile justice, prosecutors, indigent defense counsel, domestic violence, drug court, mental health advocates), and then whittle it down to those interests that voters will most likely support. It becomes not a matter of total inclusiveness based upon what the sales tax will

financially support, but a matter of what voters will support. Voters have already proffered their opinion (2007 and 2008 elections) on overly expansive lists of causes.

This will be a very difficult process. Legitimate arguments can be made for all of the stakeholder's various interests. But to be too overly broad will likely doom this sales tax effort.

Involved stakeholders need to identify how they will use the tax money

Voters will not support a tax measure if they don't know exactly where their money will go. The BCLJC needs to work with stakeholders to identify how the sales tax money will be spent. This is not to suggest that some flexibility cannot be incorporated into the wording of the ballot measure. But the ballot measure needs to be specific enough for voters to fully understand what they are supporting.

Ideally, consensus should be reached by involved stakeholders on how the sales tax monies will be used, in support of a general sales tax campaign theme. An independent mind-set (a stakeholder believing nobody can tell them how to spend their allotted amount) will be counter-productive, and may doom the overall sales tax effort to failure.

Therefore, the BCLJC needs to work hard to gain agreed-upon consensus by the involved stakeholders. The ultimate control the BCLJC has is the power to craft the proposed wording for the ballot measure, as this will be legally binding upon all those who receive sales tax monies.

Consider the Advisory Committee's performance audit recommendation

On page 42 of their final report, the Advisory Committee recommends performance audits be performed on the effectiveness of county programs and the efficiency of county services. More accurately, assessments, rather than audits, might be considered. The BCLJC should consider whether such audits/assessments ought to be included in the wording of the ballot measure.

Identify on which election the ballot should appear

The BCLJC should consider the following factors to determine on which election the ballot measure should be presented to voters:

- General election voter turnout is significantly higher than primary election voter turnout.
- Due to congressional elections the turnout for even-numbered election years is significantly higher than odd-numbered election years.
- Presidential election years have the most voter turn-out.
- Refer to the chart below for analysis of Benton County voter turnout over the past five years.

Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Benton County Voter Turnout

Year	General Election	Primary Election	Special Election
2013		33% (28,578)	
2012*	83% (80,880)	35% (33,119)	42% (38,263)
2011	50% (45,696)	23% (19,820)	
2010**	72% (64,030)	43% (37,890)	44% (37,279)
2009	47% (41,050)	23% (14,457)	May: 46% (17,718) March: 44% (17,120)

*Presidential election (higher voter turnout than non-presidential election years)

** Congressional, Legislative Elections

Note: 2014 will be a Congressional and Legislative election

The sales tax issues will appear on either the 2014 general or primary election. Voter turnout could be anticipated to be above 70% for the general election (approximately 64,000 votes) and above 40% for the primary election (approximately 35,000 votes).

Although it cannot be determined how people voted, their voting record activity is easily accessible. This allows campaigns to focus efforts on identified voters (i.e. those voters who voted in three or four out of the last four elections).

Presenting the ballot measure during a general election will result in more people voting. But it will be a more complex and expensive proposition to reach targeted voters (i.e. doorbelling and direct-mail). Benton County's previous criminal justice sales tax measures were defeated during the general election.

Targeting primary election voters is more manageable and less expensive based purely on the numbers. It is easier to impact a smaller voting block with a well-run and focused campaign. It is also easier to impact a lower-voter turnout election with favorable votes, by persuading people to vote when they normally would not vote (i.e. during a primary election).

The biggest downside to presenting the ballot measure during a primary election is not knowing how many of those, who consistently vote in primaries, are opposed to any type of tax increase. Whereas they would not change their anti-tax position even in a general election, they will have greater chance of impacting election results in lower turnout elections.

Timelines

The BCLJC should complete their involvement in the sales tax effort by the end of this year. Adherence to the following timeline is recommended:

Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Beginning Date	Ending Date	Description
Sept. 23	Oct. 15	Identify all stakeholders that may be possible recipients of sales tax money.
Oct. 1	December	Monitor which entities may consider possible tax measures in 2014. Contact and inform them of the upcoming criminal justice sales tax measure. Attempt to coordinate with them.
Oct. 15	Oct. 30	Identify a process to determine which specific stakeholders will be involved on the sales tax ballot measure.
Nov. 1	Nov. 30	Identify which stakeholders will receive sales tax monies. Identify how each of those stakeholders will use the sales tax monies. Conduct a system-wide analysis to determine if this will have a corresponding impact in other areas.
Dec. 1	Dec. 20	Complete recommendation on the specific title name and detailed description of the ballot measure wording to include; title name, ballot measure wording, life of the sales tax, and if any audit measures will be included.
Dec. 1	Dec. 20	Identify on which election the ballot measure should appear.
Dec. 20	Dec. 31	Present final recommendations to Commissioners. Ask for a final decision from Commissioners by the earliest possible date in January.

The BCLJC is reminded that its function is completely separate from the campaign committee (see below). The BCLJC should restrict itself to making the above-mentioned recommendations to the county commissioners. Campaigning and promoting the sales tax ballot measure is not one of the roles of the BCLJC.

Section C: Role of the Campaign Committee

The campaign committee is comprised of non-paid volunteers and has a distinct and separate role from the BCLJC. It is, however, appropriate and valuable for BCLJC members to volunteer their time on the campaign committee so long as they are doing so on their personal time and exclusively using personally owned resources and equipment. The value that BCLJC members may provide to the committee offsets any concerns that the committee be comprised strictly of civilian volunteers.

Legal Requirements

The committee shall be governed by the laws and regulations of the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

Goal of the Campaign Committee

The goal of the campaign committee is to conduct a well-organized and coordinated political campaign devoted to the successful passage of the criminal justice sales tax ballot measure.

Campaign Committee Positions

The campaign committee should be should include the following positions:

- Campaign Manager (1 person):
 - Responsible for overseeing and coordinating the entire operation. Makes decisions in the best interest of passing the ballot measure (i.e. how money should be spent on advertising). Relies heavily on the steering committee.
- Steering Committee (normally 2 to 6 persons):
 - A few, dedicated members who have the time and commitment to develop; education strategies (i.e. help voters understand the criminal justice system and how the sales tax will benefit that system), campaign strategies (i.e. develop concise issues and how to effectively message those so as to persuade voters to support the sales tax measure), provide oversight on the overall operation, and ensure tasks are being completed in a timely manner. They basically run the operation. They report to the Campaign Manager. Steering Committee members may or may not comprise the following positions:
- Honorary Chairpersons (normally 1 to 5 persons):
 - Important or impactful community citizens (not related to entities receiving sales tax monies) who are willing to publicly lend their name in support of the ballot measure, to include financial contributions. They normally don't have the time to be involved in detailed campaign efforts.
- Secretary/Treasurer (1 person):
 - Maintains records and finances for the campaign committee. Works with the PDC to file necessary paperwork to formally create the campaign committee, files monthly and weekly reports as required by the PDC. Ensures campaign committee compliance with all statutory and PDC regulations (to include not meeting in public facilities, public employees not using work time or public equipment, etc.). Provides regular information to the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Spokesperson (1 person):
 - A person who is well spoken and has media relations background to serve as the official committee spokesperson for media purposes. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Fundraising Coordinator (1 person):
 - Coordinates all fundraising efforts for the campaign. Includes financial and in-kind (i.e. printing) contributions from organizations and individuals. Develops fundraising benchmarks. Provides regular information to the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Voter Analyst (1 person):
 - Conducts analysis on voters (i.e. identifying 4-out-of-4 and 3-out-of-4 voters who have voted in past primary elections) and voting trends (i.e. prioritizing geographical locations based upon voter turn-out). Identifies targeted voters and voting areas for focused campaign efforts. Works closely with the Steering Committee, Advertising Coordinator (identifying who to send direct mail pieces), Yard Sign Coordinator (strategic placement of campaign signs), and the Doorbelling Coordinator (identifying specific neighborhoods and addresses within those neighborhoods for delivery of doorbelling pieces). Provides information regularly to the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Advertising Coordinator (1 person):
 - Coordinates all advertising for the campaign (creation of hand-out flyers, direct mail pieces, radio, newspaper and television advertisements). Incorporates the themes and messaging developed by the Steering Committee. Provides recommendations to the Steering Committee on cost effectiveness of advertising strategies (i.e. advertisements on radio versus newspaper versus television). Works closely with the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.

Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

- Doorbelling Coordinator (1 person):
 - Coordinates all doorbelling and literature drop efforts for the campaign. Identifies groups (i.e. police union members, police citizen volunteer members [VIPS and CHIPS volunteering their personal time, not in an official VIPS or CHIPS capacity], other citizen volunteers), to doorbell and distribute flyers at targeted voting neighborhoods and addresses. Doorbellers should solicit for placement of yard signs. Doorbelling Coordinator works closely with the Voter Analyst. Provides information regularly to the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Yard Sign Coordinator (1 person):
 - Coordinates the building and placement of all yard and public right-of-way campaign signs. Ensures signatures are obtained for authorization of signs in private locations. Works closely with the Voter Analyst. Provides information regularly to the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Kiosk Coordinator (1 person):
 - As a grass-roots effort, kiosks staffed by volunteers should be set up in visible and highly populated locations (i.e. grocery or retail stores, with the owner's permission) for purposes of handing out flyers and answer questions. The Kiosk Coordinator coordinates all kiosk activities, to include identifying volunteers for this effort (i.e. police union members, police citizen volunteer members [VIPS and CHIPS volunteering their personal time, not in an official VIPS or CHIPS capacity], other citizen volunteers). Works closely with the Voter Analyst. Provides information regularly to the Steering Committee. Reports to the Campaign Manager.
- Letter-to-the-Editor Coordinator (1 person):
 - Solicits and coordinates citizens sending letters to the Tri-City Herald in support of the sales tax measure. Ask letter writers to identify specific themes or points to be highlighted in their letters. Identify dates for letters to be submitted so letters are properly spaced out, and there is coordination to the themes/points that are being hit upon.

Timelines

Adherence to the following timeline is recommended:

Beginning Date	Ending Date	Description
Jan. 1	Jan. 31	Create and staff the campaign committee. Identify a formal name for the committee.
Feb. 1	Feb. 15	Secretary/Treasurer files necessary PDC paperwork.
Feb. 1	Feb. 15	Fundraising Coordinator identifies fundraising goals and monthly benchmarks.
Feb. 1	Feb. 28	Steering Committee devises <i>education strategies</i> (how to educate the public on the criminal justice system) and <i>campaign strategies</i> (persuading voters to support the sales measure). This is a critically important part of the process. It is important to build strong, persuasive arguments in support of the sales tax. If there are weaknesses in developing these strategies, failure will manifest itself throughout the campaign.
Feb. 1	Feb. 28	Voter Analyst analyzes voting data to identify targeted voters who are likely to vote in the upcoming election. Identify 4-out-of-4 and 3-out-of-4 voters for the past two primary elections. Identify and prioritize geographical neighborhoods that comprise the highest ratio of those voters.
Feb. 15	August	Secretary/Treasurer files all monthly and weekly PDC forms as necessary.
Feb. 15	August	Fundraising Coordinator identifies financial contributors and continuously raises funds for the campaign effort.

Strategic Plan for the 2014 Criminal Justice Sales Tax

March 1	March 30	Doorbellling and Kiosk Coordinators identify volunteers for their respective efforts. Reach out to police unions, VIPS, and CHIPS to identify individuals willing to volunteer their time. Educate the volunteers on the issues associated with the sales tax. Break the volunteers down into specific volunteer teams and identify one leader for each team. Build enthusiasm amongst the volunteers. Have regular meetings with them. Keep them involved through the entire campaign effort.
March 15		Spokesperson makes the first official announcement of formation of the campaign committee. Do a media conference, and arranges for follow-up radio interviews. Include information on why the committee is being formed, who is involved, and why these members are dedicated to supporting the sales tax effort.
March 15	March 30	Print campaign flyers for hand-out (Kiosks) and doorbellling purposes.
March 15	March 30	Arrange for kiosk tented work booths. Try to arrange for temporary loan of tables and chairs from private companies or individuals. If necessary, purchase small canopy tent covers. Purchase large banners identifying them as information booths for the criminal justice sales tax effort.
March 15	March 30	Schedule select campaign committee members to approach each municipality in the county and arrange to appear at their respective city council meetings. Ask them to pass a measure in which each city council identifies their support for the sales tax.
March 15	March 30	Schedule select campaign committee members to discuss the sales tax issue with the Tri-City Herald Editorial Board.
April 1		Order campaign signs. Design and wording should be simple and concise. Use only one color plus white to reduce costs.
April 1	August	Coordinate presentations to civic organizations (i.e. Rotary, Kiwanis). Solicit assistance from law enforcement CEO's to present a case for needed funding. Also ask law enforcement to reach out with information distribution to neighborhood watch groups.
April 1	August	Begin doorbellling efforts. Identify prioritized neighborhoods and specific addresses within those neighborhoods based upon input from the Voter Analyst. Don't doorbell after 7:00 pm. Doorbellers should be educated on how to approach voters and what to say. Solicit for yard sign placement.
May 1	August	Placement of campaign signs on public and private property. Place signs on public right of way (ensuring they meet legal requirements) in strategic and highly visible locations. Ensure written permission is obtained from private property owners. Ensure signs are removed in a timely manner after the election.
May 1	August	Begin operation of kiosk booths in high pedestrian traffic areas (i.e. grocery or retail stores). Ensure written permission is received from the property owners. Operate the kiosks as often as volunteers can staff them.
June 1	June 30	Advertising Coordinator creates and orders direct mail pieces. Don't make the pieces too "busy" – boldly identify a few, select issues to be highlighted in the pieces. Obtain and affix address labels for likely voters (information provided by the Voter Analyst). Direct mail pieces should be received within two days of voters receiving their mail-in ballots (normally sent out 20 days prior to the election).
June 1	June 30	Advertising Coordinator creates radio advertisements and pay for advertisements on select radio stations (identified by the Voter Analyst to reach targeted voters) during drive times and during the day. Advertisements should begin a week prior to voters receiving their mail-in ballots, and culminate a week prior to the election. Rotate messaging to emphasize different points during different time frames.
June 1	June 30	Advertising Coordinator creates newspaper advertisements and pay for advertisements. Advertisements should begin a week prior to voters receiving their mail-in ballots, and culminate a week prior to the election. Advertisements should be distinctive and stand out. Rotate messaging to emphasize different points during different time frames.
June 1	June 30	If television advertising is to be used (normally this is the least effective of campaign advertising), the Advertising Coordinator creates television advertisements and pays for advertisements on select stations during key viewer time periods.
June 1	June 30	Identify letter-to-the-editor writers. Coordinate different themes or issues to be written about. Coordinate the timing of the letters being submitted (i.e. one or two a day). Normally it may take a couple of weeks for the letters to be printed.
June 15		Begin submitting letters-to-the-editor.
July 15	August 5	Mail direct-mail pieces, and begin radio and newspaper advertisements to start 1 week before mail-in ballots are received by voters. Continue until one week prior to election.

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EXHIBIT 16

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From: Ken Hohenberg <Ken.Hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 4:53 PM
Subject: CSC Information Sheet.docx
Attachments: CSC Information Sheet.docx

Supporting Public Safety
Citizens for Safe Communities
P. O. Box 303
Richland, WA 99352
509.375.3468

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Information Sheet: Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax

The Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) is the campaign committee promoting the Benton County public safety sales tax. The CSC, headed by Steering Committee members Ken Hohenberg, Andy Miller, Josie Delvin, and Campaign Manager Al Wehner, has been formed in anticipation that the recommended .3% sales tax ballot measure proposal is accepted by Benton County Commissioners at their March 4th meeting. The ballot measure would be presented to Benton County voters during the August 2014 primary election. Financial and in-kind contributions are now being solicited by the CSC from key community members. The CSC will also be approaching certain community members asking them to support this cause by serving as honorary chairpersons.

History of public safety sales taxes: Proposals for .2% public safety sales taxes were most recently defeated by Benton County voters in 2007 and 2008, garnering 48% and 42% of the vote. Those efforts were a self-admittedly "low key approach" without any significant organized effort to support them. Regionally, Franklin County voters defeated a .3% sales tax ballot measure in 2002 and 2009, losing the last election by 52% of the vote. In 2011, during a time that it was doubtful voters would support a new tax measure, a .3% ballot measure was passed by almost 62% of the voters. That 30-year sales tax will primarily be used to build new facilities and suppress criminal gang activity.

Why now a sales tax proposal? It is critically important to support the currently underfunded criminal justice function in Benton County in order to maintain the quality of life we desire in our community. This latest effort was studied by an independent citizens group who recommended county commissioners present a .3% sales tax ballot measure to the voters. The matter was further studied by the Benton County Law and Justice Council, who will on March 4th recommend the following to county commissioners: 1) That the sales tax be in the amount of .3%. 2) Specific ballot language. 3) That the sales tax expire in 10 years. 4) That the ballot measure be presented to voters during the August 2014 primary election. Should county commissioners not accept *all* of these recommendations, any monies contributed to this cause will be available for refund. The CSC would also re-evaluate their support for this effort.

Why think voters will now support a sales tax? Franklin County learned from their mistakes and successfully passed a recent sales tax with overwhelming support. We, too, have learned from our past mistakes. This will be a concerted and professional-quality campaign that will educate the voters on the benefits of the public safety sales tax, and provide persuasive reasons for them to support it. A formal strategic campaign plan has already been developed. The effort is led by a core group of energized individuals who fully understand the importance of passing this measure.

Advantages of this proposal: Unlike a property tax, a sales tax is shared not only by those who reside in the county, but also by those visiting the county. In a November 2009 editorial the Tri-City Herald offered its opinion that "It (sales tax versus property tax) seemed like a fair way to find money for improvements to public safety." And this proposed sales tax has a 10-year sunset clause, creating accountability to the voters. They will have the option of voting down any continuation of the sales tax if they do not believe their money has been spent wisely.

Ballot measure wording: The ballot measure wording recommended by the Law and Justice Council reads: "Should Benton County improve public safety and combat criminal gang activity and other crime by hiring additional police officers, corrections officer and prosecutors; continuing the Metro Drug Task Force; funding gang and crime prevention efforts; and funding court and clerk programs including a seventh Superior Court Judge, and drug and mental health courts, by imposing a sales and use tax equal to three tenths of one percent (three cents on a ten dollar purchase) with the tax expiring December 31, 2024?"

**Committee
Members**

*Honorary
Chairpersons:*

Name - TBD
Title

*Steering
Committee:*

Ken Hohenberg
*Kennewick
Police Chief*

Andy Miller
*Benton County
Prosecutor*

Josie Delvin
*Benton County
Clerk*

*Campaign
Manager:*

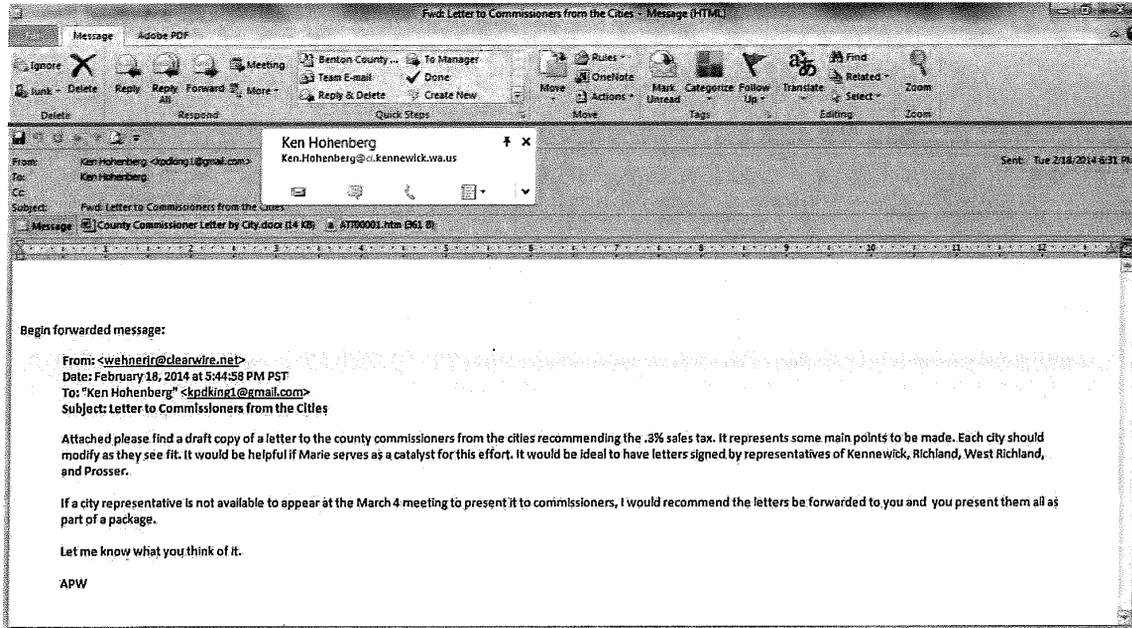
A. P. Wehner Jr.

Sec/Treasurer:

Josie Delvin

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EXHIBIT 17



Date

Commissioner James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
Benton County Commissioners
Benton County Justice Center
7122 W. Okanogan Place Bldg A
Kennewick, WA 99336

Dear Commissioners Beaver, Small and Delvin,

The City of _____ understands the need to support public safety in order to maintain and improve upon the quality of life that we enjoy in our city and county. We recognize the importance of finding revenue sources to support what is currently an under-funded criminal justice system.

As county commissioners, you now have the opportunity to place before the voters of Benton County a .3% public safety sales tax ballot measure during the 2014 primary election. This will provide a funding source important to all the cities and the county to improve public safety. It will also allow for creation of anti-gang and crime prevention programs that are not yet realized in this area.

The City of _____ is supportive of this public safety sales tax, and recommends you pass this issue so the voters can decide for themselves if this is a cause they are willing to support. If the issue is passed as recommended by the Benton County Law and Justice Council, I anticipate the City shall pass a future resolution recommending voters support the measure.

Sincerely,

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EXHIBIT 18

From: Andy Miller
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:13 PM
To: Pat Austin; Eric Hsu; Jacki Lahtinen
Cc: Andy Miller; wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Subject: FW: Info Needed
Attachments: Example - Explaining the Needs.docx

Please see the below email from Al Wehner.

I have already explained to Al that I was remiss in not forwarding the email to you and that you are only receiving it today

I'll go ahead and work on the mental health diversion/court section

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:51 AM
To: Steven Keane; Andy Miller; Josie Delvin
Cc: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; bmcelroy@westrichland.org
Subject: Info Needed

Andy, Steve, and Josie,

The Citizens for Safe Communities is putting together a web site reference the public safety sales tax. I need from you an explanation for the needs your respective departments have that will be funded by the tax. Attached is an example for Kennewick and West Richland. Something similar from each of you would be great.

I will need the information by no later than Monday, March 17th. We hope to have the web site up and running by next week.

- County Clerk's Office: 2.0 FTE Deputy Clerks, IT and other support for Deputy Clerks. \$117,476
- Sheriff's Office: 7 sworn positions, 2 support staff, 2 jail booking staff, 4 corrections staff, inmate management system, radio maintenance. \$1,929,016.
- Prosecutor's Office: Additional felony Deputy Prosecutor, appellate Deputy Prosecutor, adult felony staff position. \$264,289.

Andy:

Who could provide explanations for the following departments (and could you forward to them and ask them to reply back to me?):

- Superior Court: Superior Court Judge's position, 0.5 FTE court commissioner, adult drug court funding, SAP program, juvenile drug court, functional family therapy (juvenile). \$309,900. \$261,571 (juvenile).
- District Court: Judge pro tem, professional services, jury fees, print bindery, additional part-time and 1.0 FTE, IT equipment, Misc. \$159,300.
- Public Defense: Additional staff defender in superior court, additional contract defender in district court, 1.0 FTE legal assistant, 1.0 FTE office support, convert office manager to supervisory position. \$215,330.
- Gang & Crime Prevention and Intervention: Nurse-Family Partnership program for Benton County residents (Health Department), partnership with Boys and Girls Club (after-school programs for gang prevention and youth empowerment) and other similar programs, partnership with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place for crime prevention

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and intervention services for homeless at-risk youth. \$303,487 (Nurse-family partnership), \$500,000 (partnership with Boys and Girls Club and other programs), \$50,000 (partnership with Safe Harbor/My Friend's Place).

- Multi-Departmental Mental Health Court & Diversion: District court judge & probation officer, prosecutor and public defender for mental health court, chemical dependency professional, peer support specialist, treatment cost support for participants (supplementing insurance where needed and providing access for uninsured participants), case management services (serving both mental health court and mental health diversion/triage). \$600,000.

Thanks.

Al Wehner

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EXHIBIT 19

From: Ken Hohenberg <Ken.Hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:45 PM
Subject: FW: Press Release for Resolution of Support for Criminal Justice Sales Tax measure
Attachments: MHC Resolution on Criminal Justice Sales Tax Rev.docx; Press Release for Criminal Justice Sales Tax Measure.doc

FYI

This is great news.
Ken

From: Andy Miller [<mailto:Andy.Miller@co.benton.wa.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:40 PM
To: wehnerjr@clearwire.net; Ken Hohenberg
Subject: FW: Press Release for Resolution of Support for Criminal Justice Sales Tax measure

From: Carol Moser [<mailto:cmoser@bfcha.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 5:04 PM
To: 'McConnell, Gregg'
Cc: Ti Nelson; Andy Miller; Kristi Haynes
Subject: Press Release for Resolution of Support for Criminal Justice Sales Tax measure

Gregg,

The Mental Health Committee of the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance voted last Wednesday to endorse the attached Resolution of Support for the Criminal Justice Sales Tax measure.

I wanted the Tri-City Herald to have the first crack at the story, and will send out the press release tomorrow to the other news media.

Given NAMI's position on the matter, I hope it helps balance some of the negative comments you have received.

Thank you for your leadership in helping advance this measure.

Carol Moser

Executive Director
Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance
7102 W. Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336
509.460.4584
www.bfcha.org

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For Immediate Release

Contacts: Carol Moser, 509-460-4584, cmoser@bfcha.org
Ti Nelson, 509-783-7333, tinelson@frontier.com
Kristi Haynes, 509-528-1108, Kristi@yspp.org

Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance Endorses

Resolution for Criminal Justice Sales Tax Initiative

Kennewick, WA – The Mental Health Committee of The Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance Health Alliance voted Wednesday to endorse the proposed three-tenths of one percent criminal justice sales tax in a Resolution of Support. "Mental illness is a concern of our community, medical providers and school system," stated Ti Nelson, Chairwoman of the committee and President of Mental Health Ombuds, Inc. "Although the sales tax is not perfect, it opens the door to a more compassionate response to those individuals who don't belong in jail, and are in need of treatment." "This is the first time in our community's history that such a broad base is advocating for a comprehensive measure that includes mental health, diversion, police, and criminal justice needs in the same measure," stated Andy Miller, a member of the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Coalition.

"The promise of a mental health court, diversion team, and partnerships with after-school programs for gang prevention and youth empowerment were other powerful reasons to endorse the measure," stated Kristi Haynes, Benton-Franklin Field Coordinator for the Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

"We knew from the community survey conducted in conjunction with the Community Health Needs Assessment that people feel strongly that there are not enough positive teen activities for our youth. Youth feel a greater sense of connection when there are adequate resources and opportunities for them in the community. This measure will give them some options." The three-tenths of one percent will provide needed funds for a mental health court, diversion services, police officers, funding for

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gang prevention and youth empowerment programs, and other services, according to the City of Benton-Franklin COMMISSION

ald article. For a full reading of the Resolution of Support, visit the Benton-Franklin Community's website at: www.bfcha.org.

The Mental Health Committee adopted this Vision Statement on 2/5/2014.

Our community is a place where compassion for our mental wellbeing is demonstrated by:

- Providing positive attitudes toward mental health awareness
- Providing timely access to quality mental health services
- Working to identify and eliminate gaps which are barriers to individualized care
- Advocating for sustainable funding to support the mental health system.

#####

Resolution of the
Mental Health Committee of the Benton-Franklin
Community Health Alliance

Concerning the Implementation of a 0.3% increase in
the general sales tax for criminal justice services, police
officers, a mental health court, and diversion program for
the citizens of Benton County

WHEREAS, mental illness is a concern of our community, medical providers,
and school system; and

WHEREAS, the failure to provide treatment for individuals suffering from
serious mental illnesses and/or substance abuse disorders leads to increased
utilization of hospital emergency rooms, incarceration in jails and prisons,
homelessness and threats to public safety; and

WHEREAS, many people with mental illness cannot afford or understand how
to navigate the complexity of the justice and mental health systems; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to jail or emergency rooms for people with mental
illness are not currently available in our community; and

WHEREAS, Benton County prosecutors, judges, police, and mental health
advocates have considered the need for a mental health court but have not had a
way to pay for it; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Benton County would benefit substantially by
reductions in homelessness, incarceration, and emergency room usage while
improving public health; and

WHEREAS, a mental health court would appropriately divert people with
mental illness out of jail and into prevention and intervention services thereby helping
to resolve the underlying causes of inappropriate behavior; and

WHEREAS, "therapeutic justice" is an effective and compassionate response
to those individuals whose behavior is linked to mental illness; and

WHEREAS, a mental health court and diversion team would case manage
those with mental illness and help get them the appropriate care and services;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Mental Health Committee of the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance recommends that the voters of Benton County enact a 0.3% increase in the general sales tax as a means of providing sustainable funding for a mental health court, diversion program, and related treatment and prevention services.

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EXHIBIT 20

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us;
bmcelroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat
Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website
Importance: High

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An initial draft of the CSC website has been completed and is available for viewing at www.citizens4safecommunities.com. You are receiving this e-mail because you have provided, or been asked to provide, information in the section "How the Public Safety Sales Tax will impact:".

You can navigate through the website by selecting categories in the left column. We tried to make it as informative as possible for the viewing public.

Please contact me via e-mail response, or call me, if you have any questions or concerns. *We will publicly announce the website at the CSC press conference on Monday.* If you have not yet provided information for your respective section, please do so by no later than Friday.

I am asking the following people to review for accuracy (and to make sure you are satisfied with the content) these sections under "How the Public Safety Sales Tax will impact:"

Ken Hohenberg: "Kennewick Residents," and "All Benton County Residents" – Metro Drug Task Force section.

Chris Skinner: "Richland Residents" section.

Brian McElroy: "West Richland Residents" section.

David Giles: "Prosser Residents" section.

Steve Keane: "All Benton County Residents" – Sheriff's Office section and Reserve Fund section.

Josie Delvin: "All Benton County Residents" – County Clerk's Office section.

Pat Austin: "All Benton County Residents" – Superior Court section.

Jacki Lahtinen: "All Benton County Residents" – District Court section.

John Hansens: "All Benton County Residents" – Coroner's Office section.

Andy Miller: "All Benton County Residents" –Prosecutor's Office section, Gang & Crime Prevention and Intervention section, and Mental Health Court & Diversion section.

Eric Hsu: "All Benton County Residents" – Public Defense section.

A courtesy reply indicating whether you are okay, or not okay, with your respective section(s) will be appreciated.

Thanks.

Al Wehner
375-3468

From: Jacki Lahtinen
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 1:25 PM
To: wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Looks good in regards to the protem we are not hiring or filling a position we are just funding so can we say protem funding
Jacki

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Jacki Lahtinen
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Jackie,

Thanks for the correction. I have changed it to read "*Benton County has declared their intent to use the monies gained from the Public Safety Sales Tax to fund 1 Judge Protem position, fund additional support staff, fund professional services, jury fees, and fund equipment purchases. The tax will fund all these items at an annual cost estimated to be \$159,300.*" You can review it on the website. Does this language work for you?

Thanks.

Al Wehner

From: Jacki Lahtinen [<mailto:Jacki.Lahtinen@co.benton.wa.us>]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 3:08 PM
To: wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Al;

Great job on the web site, a lot of great work has gone into this and I appreciate all your hard work on this entire project. I only have a small correction on the district court part in the first section after it says we declare our intent to use is says to hire 1 judge pro tem, we actually would not hire a Judge Protem we have a list of attorney's we use we just need the funding because currently we are under budget in 2009 (I think) the commissioners reduced our \$75,000 allotted to protem expenditure to 0 (zero) and cut my budget an additional 2% I had to lay off a part time person to pay for protem services. So this may be misleading to say we will hire a judge pro tem, also in my original proposal I sated just 1 full time staff so maybe it would be better to just say additional staff. My judge checked because we were unsure how to spell protem if it should be pro-tem or pro tem and the proper spelling is Protem all one word. I hope all this makes sense please feel free to contact me at 735-8476 ext 3255 if you have any questions.

Jacki Lahtinen

Administrator
Benton County District Court
7122 W Okanogan Bld A
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-735-8476 ext 3255

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; brmcelroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
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Brian McElroy: "West Richland Residents" section.
David Giles: "Prosser Residents" section.
Steve Keane: "All Benton County Residents" – Sheriff's Office section and Reserve Fund section.
Josie Delvin: "All Benton County Residents" – County Clerk's Office section.
Pat Austin: "All Benton County Residents" – Superior Court section.
Jacki Lahtinen: "All Benton County Residents" – District Court section.
John Hansens: "All Benton County Residents" – Coroner's Office section.
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Eric Hsu: "All Benton County Residents" – Public Defense section.

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Al Wehner
375-3468

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To: Jacki Lahtinen
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Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

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Jacki Lahtinen

Administrator
Benton County District Court
7122 W Okanogan Bld A
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-735-8476 ext 3255

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcclroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website
Importance: High

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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Chris Skinner: "Richland Residents" section.

Brian McElroy: "West Richland Residents" section.

David Giles: "Prosser Residents" section.

Steve Keane: "All Benton County Residents" – Sheriff's Office section and Reserve Fund section.

Josie Delvin: "All Benton County Residents" – County Clerk's Office section.

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John Hansens: "All Benton County Residents" – Coroner's Office section.

Andy Miller: "All Benton County Residents" –Prosecutor's Office section, Gang & Crime Prevention and Intervention section, and Mental Health Court & Diversion section.

Eric Hsu: "All Benton County Residents" – Public Defense section.

A courtesy reply indicating whether you are okay, or not okay, with your respective section(s) will be appreciated.

Thanks.

Al Wehner
375-3468

From: Jacki Lahtinen
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 3:08 PM
To: wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Al;

Great job on the web site, a lot of great work has gone into this and I appreciate all your hard work on this entire project. I only have a small correction on the district court part in the first section after it says we declare our intent to use is says to hire 1 judge pro tem, we actually would not hire a Judge Protem we have a list of attorney's we use we just need the funding because currently we are under budget in 2009 (I think) the commissioners reduced our \$75,000 allotted to protem expenditure to 0 (zero) and cut my budget an additional 2% I had to lay off a part time person to pay for protem services. So this may be misleading to say we will hire a judge pro tem, also in my original proposal I sated just 1 full time staff so maybe it would be better to just say additional staff. My judge checked because we were unsure how to spell protem if it should be pro-tem or pro tem and the proper spelling is Protem all one word. I hope all this makes sense please feel free to contact me at 735-8476 ext 3255 if you have any questions.

Jacki Lahtinen

Administrator
Benton County District Court
7122 W Okanogan Bld A
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-735-8476 ext 3255

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcelroy@westrichland.org; djiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website
Importance: High

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RECEIVED
Jun 26 2014

SECTION 101 CLOSURE COMMISSION

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Chris Skinner: "Richland Residents" section.

Brian McElroy: "West Richland Residents" section.

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Eric Hsu: "All Benton County Residents" – Public Defense section.

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Thanks.

Al Wehner
375-3468

From: Skinner, Chris <cskinner@CI.RICHLAND.WA.US>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:01 AM
To: 'wehnerjr@clearwire.net'; ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us;
bmcclroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat
Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Information looks good.

Chris



Chief Chris Skinner

Director of Police Services
City of Richland
509.942.7360
www.ci.richland.wa.us



From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; Skinner, Chris; bmcclroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us;
Steven.Keane@co.benton.wa.us; josie.delvin@co.benton.wa.us; pat.austin@co.benton.wa.us;
jacki.lahtinen@co.benton.wa.us; john.hansens@co.benton.wa.us; andy.miller@co.benton.wa.us;
eric.hsu@co.benton.wa.us
Subject: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website
Importance: High

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Eric Hsu: "All Benton County Residents" – Public Defense section.

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Thanks.

Al Wehner
375-3468

From: David Giles <DGiles@ci.prosser.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 9:59 AM
To: 'wehnerjr@clearwire.net'; ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us;
cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcclroy@westrichland.org; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat
Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Mr. Wehner

I have reviewed my section of the CSC web site and it is correct and well done. Please express my appreciation to all involved in this endeavor.

Dave

Chief Dave Giles
Prosser Police Department
601 7th Street
Prosser, WA. 99350
(509) 786-1500 ex 8220

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

This message contains information that may be confidential per RCW 13.50.050 or 42 CFR, Part 2. If this message was sent to you in error, any use, or disclosure or distribution of its contents is prohibited. If you receive this message in error, please contact me at the e-mail address listed above and delete this message without printing, copying, or forwarding it. Thank you.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
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Subject: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website
Importance: High

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Eric Hsu: "All Benton County Residents" – Public Defense section.

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Thanks.

Al Wehner
375-3468

From: Brian McElroy <bmcclroy@westrichland.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 9:45 AM
To: wehnerjr@clearwire.net; ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us;
cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat
Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Thank you AI for the hard work. I like the web site. Very informative.

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: ken.hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; Brian McElroy; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us;
Steven.Keane@co.benton.wa.us; josie.delvin@co.benton.wa.us; pat.austin@co.benton.wa.us;
jacki.lahtinen@co.benton.wa.us; john.hansens@co.benton.wa.us; andy.miller@co.benton.wa.us;
eric.hsu@co.benton.wa.us
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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

Thanks.

Al Wehner
375-3468

From: Ken Hohenberg <Ken.Hohenberg@ci.kennewick.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 9:26 AM
To: 'wehnerjr@clearwire.net'; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcclroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven Keane; Josie Delvin; Pat Austin; Jacki Lahtinen; John Hansens; Andy Miller; Eric Hsu
Subject: RE: Citizens for Safe Communities (CSC) website

Mr. Wehner

I reviewed both of my sections and it is correct, accurate and very well done. Please pass on our appreciation to Joel.
Ken

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:18 PM
To: Ken Hohenberg; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcclroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us; Steven.Keane@co.benton.wa.us; josie.delvin@co.benton.wa.us; pat.austin@co.benton.wa.us; jacki.lahtinen@co.benton.wa.us; john.hansens@co.benton.wa.us; andy.miller@co.benton.wa.us; eric.hsu@co.benton.wa.us
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Al Wehner
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EXHIBIT 21

RECEIVED
Jun 26 2014
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Ken Hohenberg
Subject: Sheriff and Chiefs Statement
Attachments: Sheriffs and Chiefs Statement - Revised.docx

Attached is a revised copy of the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs statement.

Statement by the Benton County Sheriff and Police Chiefs

May 12, 2014

We, the law enforcement representatives for Benton County, have each taken an oath to protect those who live, work and visit our respective communities. We take that oath seriously and have done everything reasonably possible to fulfill that obligation.

Our commitment to public safety is not restricted by city boundaries. We also understand our responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer money. This is why we partner with local, state and national agencies to be as efficient and effective as possible. Examples of our collaborative efforts include the regional SWAT Team, Metro Drug Task Force, Violent Gang Task Force, and Special Investigations Unit.

Our task has not been an easy one. The laws and investigations have become more complex and time consuming. This impacts the police officer's ability to try and prevent crime and proactively address crime problems. We have also been asked to do more with fewer resources. Each of our government entities have acted with fiscal responsibility during difficult financial times. However, the net effect is that many of us face significant increase in our community's population without the needed increase in staffing. Our responsibilities grow as our resources remain limited.

Help is now available to overcome these challenges, and to address the issues identified by an independent citizens committee and our Law and Justice Council after a complete and thorough analysis of our county's criminal justice needs. That help is in the form of Benton County Proposition 14-5, the Public Safety Sales Tax. We believe the need is real. And we believe the time to act is now.

This is a much needed ballot measure to strengthen public safety in Benton County. It funds an essential increase in police officers. It maintains funding for the Metro Drug Task Force and our very successful drug courts. The measure will help us fight criminal gangs – not only through enforcement efforts, but also by providing our youth with alternatives to the gang lifestyle. And it will allow us to offer, for the first time, a mental health court.

The ballot measure is a comprehensive approach to improving our criminal justice system. It offers a good balance between enforcement and prevention. Each and every one of us benefits if we are able to prevent crime before it happens. Innocent people will be saved the agony and costs of being victimized. Taxpayer money will be saved by reducing jail costs.

We need to reach out to our youth and offer them options before they make the decision to join a gang. They need to be provided with programs and other measures that allow them to make good decisions. We understand there are people in the criminal justice system suffering from addiction and who, if offered the opportunity, will seek treatment and try to turn their life around. And there are too many people in the criminal justice system who suffer from mental illness. Confinement in a jail at taxpayer expense is not the answer. They should be allowed access to a mental health court, where their illness can be more appropriately dealt with. We recognize this will not solve all the issues associated with mental health in the criminal justice system, but it is certainly a good first step in the right direction.

We are fortunate to live in this area. It's an ideal geographical location, with wonderful people and great schools. We have worked hard to make this a safe place to live. As leaders in law enforcement we want to proactively address the crime problem. But we need help to do so.

We recognize, and appreciate, that our communities have been generally supportive of law enforcement in the past. Voters will be given a chance to make an important decision when they vote on the Public Safety Sales Tax on August 5th. We trust they will make the right decision.

Signed:

Steve Keane
Benton County Sheriff

Ken Hohenberg
Kennewick Police Chief

Chris Skinner
Richland Police Chief

Brian McElroy
West Richland Police Chief

David Giles
Prosser Police Chief

Dated this _____ day of April, 2014.

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Jun 26 2014
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

EXHIBIT 22

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 8:15 AM
To: Steven Keane
Subject: RE: Request for crime statistics over past 10 years ending with 2013

By no later than Tuesday if possible. There is a regional Chamber of Commerce presentation on Wednesday afternoon in which a question may arise for which this info would be helpful.

From: Steven Keane [<mailto:Steven.Keane@co.benton.wa.us>]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 7:42 AM
To: wehnerjr@clearwire.net; Ken Hohenberg; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcelroy@westrichland.org; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us
Subject: RE: Request for crime statistics over past 10 years ending with 2013

Al,

Will do. When do you need them by?

Steve

From: wehnerjr@clearwire.net [<mailto:wehnerjr@clearwire.net>]
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2014 7:09 PM
To: Ken Hohenberg; cskinner@ci.richland.wa.us; bmcelroy@westrichland.org; Steven Keane; dgiles@ci.prosser.wa.us
Subject: Request for crime statistics over past 10 years ending with 2013

Sheriff and Chiefs,

Would you please provide me with your respective agency's crime statistics for Part I crimes over the past 10 years ending with 2013?

Thank you.

Al Wehner
Campaign Manager
Citizens for Safe Communities
www.citizens4safecommunities.com

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EXHIBIT 23

Tri-CityHerald.com

[Previous Story](#)
[Next Story](#)

County commissioner Bowman plans to step down

By John Trumbo and Michelle Dupler, Herald staff writers March 14, 2012

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

Leo Bowman declared Tuesday he will not seek re-election as Benton County commissioner for District 1, saying he prefers to have more time for himself and his wife when his term expires Dec. 31.

"I won't file the week of May 14. It will be an open seat," Bowman told fellow commissioners and a dozen county employees at the commissioners' meeting in Prosser.

Bowman, 72, who will complete 16 years on the commission by the end of the year, said he and his wife discussed whether he should run for a fifth term. "We discussed our future ... things on my bucket list."

By the end of the day, three candidates emerged as potential replacements.

Minutes after Bowman's surprise announcement, 8th District Sen. Jerome Delvin, R-Richland, told the Herald by email that he plans to run for Bowman's seat in the November election.

The back-to-back statements came two months before filing opens May 14, and they gave notice to Larry Taylor, retired Benton County sheriff, that he will have competition in trying to be elected to the commission in November.

Richland School Board President Rick Jansons also plans to enter the race.

Taylor told the Herald last September after resigning as the county's animal control manager that he was considering a run against Bowman.

Taylor said he had talked with Delvin a month ago, with the understanding that the senator wouldn't be a candidate if Bowman sought re-election.

"So I put wheels in motion and have people helping me with signs, financing and campaigning. It's all on the fast track and I planned to make a formal announcement the first week in May," Taylor said.

"It is intriguing why Jerome is running. He's done a wonderful job in Olympia, but I question his qualifications," Taylor said.

"A county commissioner has to set policy for the county, have some management experience and set a budget. Jerome has never been in a leadership position in Olympia or as a cop in Richland," Taylor claimed. "These things are vital in a commissioner's position."

Delvin said he believes his 18 years of experience will serve the county well, as he's been able to learn the issues that affect the county, including water management, energy, tax policy, small business regulations and land use and development.

"I think it's time to come home after 18 years in the Olympia," he said.

Delvin served 10 years in the state House and has served eight years in the Senate. He serves as deputy Republican whip and is the ranking Republican member on the Senate Energy, Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee.

Taylor also told the Herald that Delvin being an elected commissioner could create a conflict of interest because the county clerk is Delvin's wife, Josie.

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"The board will set her budget and policy and she will have to comply," Taylor noted.

Delvin told the Herald that he sees no conflict.

"She's separately elected to be the clerk," he said. "She has her own department to run. When it comes to the budget, I would be one of three votes."

Jansons told the Herald he has been considering running for a seat on the commission for six months -- well before Bowman decided not to seek re-election.

He said his decision came because he wants to preserve the quality of life that makes Benton County a great place to live and to make the commission and its decisions more accessible to the public.

Jansons said he supports having some commission meetings in the evening so that more people can attend and voice their thoughts and concerns.

"I want this to be a very livable place for my kids and grandkids," he said. "It is such a beautiful area with a great quality of life. We need to preserve that."

He said he has demonstrated leadership and budget-writing skills through his tenure on the Richland School Board -- a position he said he'd like to keep if elected commissioner. He said he doesn't see the two jobs as conflicts.

Jansons also serves as vice president of the Richland Public Facilities District Board.

"I'm really excited about this," he said. "I think I have a lot to offer -- a good vision for Benton County."

During the Tuesday meeting, commission Chairman Jim Beaver thanked Bowman for his years of service, noting his "tenacity on transportation issues."

Commissioner Shon Small added appreciation.

"Thank you for all you've done and your leadership. I've learned a lot the last one and one-half years side by side with you," Small said.

The two commissioners and county employees who filled the commissioners' meeting room gave Bowman a standing ovation.

Bowman said he thought about the decision for a long time.

"I take my commitments seriously, for my constituents here and across the state. There's a certain amount of guilt involved because we haven't completed the Red Mountain interchange yet," he said.

"There's a lot of public service left in me," said Bowman, a 40-year Kiwanian who isn't sure what kind of public service could draw him back.

It won't be political service, however.

"I'm not interested in anything on a full-time basis that takes me away from my family, especially my wife," he said.

Bowman said he plans to spend more time with his wife, make more road trips to Arizona to visit his daughter and her family, and to hole up in his "man cave," which he said is a 1,000 square-foot shop that is both a wood-working den and a hang-out with a TV, bathroom and recliner.

"I don't have a bed, but the recliner goes back quite a ways," he said.

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