



Contact: Axel Perez
City Manager's Office
Phone: 562-904-7284
Fax: 562-923-6388
afperez@downeyca.org

City of Downey
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241
www.downeyca.org

PRESS RELEASE

Downey City Council Places Public Safety and Local Control Measure on November Ballot

Downey, CA, July 23, 2024: On Tuesday, the Downey City Council unanimously placed the City of Downey Public Safety and Local Control Measure on the November 5th ballot for voter consideration.

“The Police Department continues to work hard to keep our community safe, but similar to other communities in the region, last year saw a five year high in reported property crimes in Downey and in 2023 there were over a combined 3,100 robberies, burglaries and thefts including auto thefts,” said Downey Acting Police Chief Scott Loughner. “An additional source of local revenue will help allow the City to maintain 911 emergency response times and police patrols in neighborhoods and business areas to keep residents and their property safe.”

Downey is one of the few cities in the region to be a full-service City, including having its own police and fire departments. If enacted, funding from the measure could help maintain local control of vital services; ensure adequate funding and resources for first responders, parks, road maintenance as well as youth and senior programs; and preserve the highest quality of life in the area.

“Over 70% of calls to the Downey Fire Department are related to medical emergencies,” said Downey Fire Chief Dan Hurlock. “Additional funding is needed to help maintain and improve response times and ensure the city is able to recruit and retain well-qualified firefighters, paramedics, as well as ensure they have lifesaving equipment to respond to emergencies and save lives.”

The proposed measure would be a ¼ cent sales tax requiring all funds to be locally controlled and spent to benefit Downey residents.

Over the last seven months, the city engaged over 1,200 residents through community surveys, several community presentations, and interactive community engagement efforts throughout the city, known as the Downey Discussion to gather input about city

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services and future spending priorities. For more information on the measure or the results of The Downey Discussion, visit: www.DowneyCA.org.

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