



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESERT HOT SPRINGS RESIDENTS APPROVE OF JOB CITY IS DOING

Residents Interested in Extending Voter-Approved Local Funding to Prevent Cuts to Public Safety Services

Desert Hot Springs, CA – April 25, 2017: A recently commissioned independent survey shows 70% of respondents approve of the job the City of Desert Hot Springs is doing to provide city services. “We are thrilled that residents can see our hard work paying off. We appreciate their feedback very much,” said City Manager and retired Police Chief Charles Maynard.

Amid nearly \$10 million in state takeaways, the current administration and Council have avoided bankruptcy, reduced a \$6 million deficit, maintained emergency reserves, and took steps to improve transparency. In March, the City was assigned an “A” rating with a stable outlook from Standard and Poor’s for the 2017A and 2017A-T lease revenue bonds. Their Report cited strong fiscal management, budgetary performance, and liquidity as crucial factors for the positive rating.

“We must continue this momentum to secure our City’s ongoing financial stability, safety and quality of life. We have taken decisive action to improve fiscal stability and public safety,” continued City Manager Maynard. The City’s overall crime rate has decreased 18 percent in the past year.

Constituents are particularly interested in maintaining and preventing cuts to public safety, including crime investigation and prevention, recruiting and retaining experienced police officers, increasing drug house investigations, and maintaining anti-gang and anti-drug programs.

“This community input is invaluable as we continue to work to decrease crime in Desert Hot Springs. Reducing and preventing crime, drugs, and gangs not only makes us safer, but more attractive to businesses that can revitalize our City. While we have reduced our overall crime rate, we must stay focused on patrolling our neighborhoods, anti-gang programs, cracking down on parole violators and monitoring sex offenders, even as the state continues to put more offenders back on our streets,” elaborated Police Chief Dale Mondary.

The independent community survey was conducted March 24-30 by the highly respected opinion research firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3 Research).

Constituents also overwhelmingly perceive there is a need for additional local funding with 87% saying there is “great” or “some” need. A majority, 57%, say there is “great” need.

Constituents expressed interest in the concept of continuing local, voter-approved funding to maintain and prevent cuts to public safety services with percentages as high as 77%. Existing, voter-approved local funding provides \$5 million dollars annually for police officers and emergency response dispatchers, anti-gang enforcement operations, graffiti removal, code enforcement, and other public safety services. By law, all funds are specifically used only for Desert Hot Springs public safety services and are critical to the safety and survival of the City.

The City will continue to solicit feedback from the community about their public safety budget priorities. Residents can provide input and get more information by visiting:

http://www.cityofdhs.org/Public_Safety_Conversation

For questions regarding survey methodology, contact John Fairbank at 310-828-1183

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