

9/16/2024

RESOLUTION NO. M-4297

A RESOLUTION expressing the City Council's support for Proposition 4, which, if approved by voters, would fund police and public safety services, including staffing, equipment, technology, facilities, and criminal justice costs; increase Vancouver's regular property tax by approximately \$0.41/\$1,000 assessed valuation, for a maximum levy rate not to exceed \$2.63/\$1,000 for 2025; set the limit factor for Vancouver's total regular property tax levy for 2026-2030 to 100% plus annual increase of 5%; and authorize the 2030 levy amount as the basis to calculate subsequent levies (84.55 RCW).

WHEREAS, community growth and the associated 35% increase in call volume for police services from 2017-2023 has resulted in a decline in police response times; and

WHEREAS, a growth in demand for police services has strained investigative capacity of detectives such that nearly 3,100 cases go uninvestigated each year; and

WHEREAS, there is currently an insufficient effective police force to meet demands of the community; and

WHEREAS, reliable public safety is vital to a thriving community, and building capacity to meet the demand for public safety services can be accomplished through investments in sworn staff, non-sworn staff, complimentary co-response teams and programs, and technology; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the operational gaps, the new staff will require equipment, technology and new precinct space; and

WHEREAS, during 2023, Vancouver Police Department staff identified the necessary additional operating resources needed to increase the ability of the department to more effectively respond to the public safety needs of the community, and to build capacity to proactively engage the community in pre-emptive strategies to prevent threats to community safety, and worked with other City departments to estimate the cost of these additional resources; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver City Manager convened a community advisory committee on policing to review and advise on identified needs and recommendations from the police department and to formulate a recommendation on potential investments in police and related capacities; and

WHEREAS, during the July 1 and July 8, 2024 workshops, Vancouver City Council considered the recommendation by the Public Safety Advisory Committee to increase the City's regular property tax levy to fund the operating expenses needed to improve public safety in Vancouver as the first step in a three-step funding approach for the increased police staffing; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2024, the City Council deliberated on the desired size of the levy increase and selected \$0.41/\$1,000 of assessed value as the levy rate increase to put before the voters during the general election to be held on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, if passed, Proposition No. 4 would be used to fund 80 additional full-time sworn officers, 36 additional full-time equivalent non-sworn police positions; efficiency enhancing technologies; support for jail, corrections, prosecution and public defense resources; facilities investments necessary to support increased staffing, and equipment and vehicles consistent with current and future community expectations; and

WHEREAS, targeted outcomes of Proposition 4 passage include: reductions in violent and property crime, additional capacity for investigations, increased routine patrol and traffic enforcement, and stronger community conflict resolution; and

WHEREAS, deployment of staff and resources supported by Proposition 4 stands to enhance the community safety and vitality of the City of Vancouver; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2024, following notice and publication in accordance with Washington law, the City of Vancouver held a public hearing and allowed approximately equal amounts of time for those wishing to speak in favor of, and opposition to, the proposed ballot initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. The City Council hereby expresses its support for Proposition 4 because if approved by voters, it will provide revenue that is necessary to fund critical public safety services in the City of Vancouver.

ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City Council this 16th day of September, 2024.

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Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

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Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

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Jonathan Young, City Attorney