



# CITY OF EASTVALE

## Public Safety Priorities Discussion

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why is there discussion of law enforcement services in Eastvale?**

The City of Eastvale is always evaluating our services and making sure that we are providing the most effective services at the best value for our residents and businesses. In March 2019, the City Council gave staff direction to conduct community outreach and seek input regarding the future of law enforcement services in Eastvale. Staff was directed to gather feedback and present the information to the Council at a future meeting.

#### **Are we having this discussion because the City is unsatisfied with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department?**

The City Council has been clear that the City is very satisfied with the services provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RSO). The RSO has played a vital role in helping Eastvale become the 12<sup>th</sup> safest city in California and the personnel at RSO work tirelessly to serve and protect the residents and businesses within Eastvale. This is a discussion on how to best provide law enforcement services now and in the future while being fiscally responsible.

This year, we conducted our first Community Satisfaction Study. In this study, residents expressed their satisfaction with law enforcement services provided. Approximately 81% of residents said they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the services provided by RSO. Residents were also asked, "*If the city government could change one thing to make Eastvale a better place to live, work or play, what change would you like to see?*" Approximately 10% of residents responded, "Increase police presence, faster response, have own police dept" which was one of the top four responses.

#### **What would it cost to create a local Police Department, and would the City save money by doing so?**

This is one of the key questions in evaluating the creation of a local Police Department. To begin an assessment of this question, the City retained a consultant to draft a Preliminary Feasibility Study. This study explored items such as current and future estimated costs, potential deployment structures and response time implications. This Preliminary Feasibility Study was also peer-reviewed by two independent law enforcement experts. The Preliminary Feasibility Study and the Peer Review Study was discussed at the Public Safety Budget Workshop on March 13, 2019. The Preliminary Feasibility Study is available on the City's website at [www.eastvaleca.gov](http://www.eastvaleca.gov). The City is in the process of reviewing the documents, seeking additional analysis, and gathering community feedback for future City Council discussion.

It should be noted that since the Preliminary Feasibility Study was conducted, several changes have occurred.

- We have a new Board of Supervisor, Karen Spiegel.
- We have a new Sheriff, Chad Bianco.
- The anticipated cost increase on the RSO contract rate were significantly less than projected.
- Sheriff Chad Bianco has created a team of Captains to work with local agencies to review services and costs.

We have also updated projected costs for our own local Police Department based on further review as well as community and City Council input. This included increasing associated legal costs/litigation and utilizing top step salary, consistent with our local City budgeting practices.

### **Why did the City decide to have a Preliminary Feasibility Study conducted?**

The City is always evaluating our services and making sure that we are providing the most effective services while remaining fiscally responsible. The City of Menifee did a similar Preliminary Feasibility Study that sparked Eastvale to have our own study conducted for preliminary discussion. Since then, the City of Menifee has proceeded with creating their own local Police Department.

### **How much does the City currently pay for law enforcement services provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department?**

For FY 19/20, the City budgeted \$10,684,888 for law enforcement services. As a percentage of the City's total General Fund budget, Public Safety represents 59%. When broken down further, law enforcement services costs 61% of total Public Safety funds (\$10,684,888 of \$17,555,113) while the Fire Department represents 39% of the total Public Safety budget (\$6,870,225 of the \$17,555,113). The Fire Department is funded by a special fire fund within property tax and can only be used for Fire Services.

### **Does the City determine the cost of living increases by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department?**

The City of Eastvale does not determine the cost of living or salary increases by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. These are determined in labor negotiations with the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

### **Could there be opportunities for residents to volunteer with at a possible local Police Department?**

Yes, and residents can volunteer now with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department through their Citizen Volunteer program. Volunteers can request to specifically volunteer in Eastvale. More information can be found at: [www.riversidesheriff.org/volunteer/](http://www.riversidesheriff.org/volunteer/).

### **Is the City trying to support a sales tax measure to help form a local Police Department?**

There has been discussion in the community regarding the utilization of a sales tax increase to help fund services, amenities, and programs, including a potential local Police Department. This issue has not been formally considered by the City Council and further public input is needed before a sales tax measure is

considered. The City hosted a Community Workshop focused on Financial Priorities on June 18, 2019, where residents provided input. The Council seeks to gather further input from residents regarding community priorities and how they relate to potential sales tax measures.

**Have strategic investments such as the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program increased efficiencies?**

Yes, the ALPR program along with other public safety strategic investments have helped increase efficiencies. ALPR cameras have been installed on patrol vehicles as well as various entry and exit points throughout the city. We also welcomed our second Motorcycle Deputy and approved 10 additional patrol hours (which equates to two additional deputies). And we are working with RSO to consider utilizing technology to allow residents to report certain low priority incidents electronically.

**How do I voice my opinion, and will there be future meetings hosted to further this discussion?**

We want to encourage residents to voice their opinions, feedback, and input on this important discussion. We encourage residents to participate in our upcoming Public Safety Workshop that will include further discussion of this matter.

- Public Safety Community Workshop | July 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 12363 Limonite Avenue Suite 900 Eastvale, CA 91752
- Email feedback, input, and ideas to [info@eastvaleca.gov](mailto:info@eastvaleca.gov).

**What is the best way to stay updated on the status of this conversation?**

The best way to stay updated is to stay connected by signing up for our e-notifications through our website, and following our official City of Eastvale communication platforms ([Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)).