

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE NN

A Proposed Ordinance Creating A Special Parcel Tax To Increase Police Personnel And Add A Data Management System.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Oakland are committed to provide a safe and peaceful environment for all Oakland residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has been experiencing unacceptable rates of crime and violence that are impacting families, businesses, and city's overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, preventing violence and ensuring public safety requires that police services be adequately staffed; and

WHEREAS, the first challenge Oakland faces once the current authorized strength is reached this year is to sustain that level of police staffing; and

WHEREAS, for many residents additional police staffing is a matter of significant interest and concern; and

WHEREAS, limited police staffing services detrimentally impact the Oakland Police Department's ability to rapidly respond to calls for service, thoroughly investigate crimes, and engage in data-driven policing strategies; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City Council of the City of Oakland does hereby submit to the voters at the November 4, 2008 general election, an Ordinance, which reads as follows:

PART 1. GENERAL

Section 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE.

(A) Title. This Ordinance may be cited as the "The 2008 Oakland Police Services Expansion Measure."

(B) Purpose. The tax, imposed under this Ordinance, is solely for the purpose of raising revenue necessary to maintain and enhance police services and programs to prevent crime in the City of Oakland.

This parcel tax is not an ad valorem tax on real property, nor a transaction tax or sales tax on the sale of real property. It is an excise tax on the privilege of using and use of municipal services. Such municipal services increase and provide a greater benefit to Owners of Parcels when programs aimed at preventing crime in the City are enhanced. Because the proceeds of the tax will be deposited in a special fund restricted for the services and programs specified herein, the tax is a special tax.

Section 2. FINDINGS.

1. Investing in adequate police services will significantly reduce the economic and social costs associated with crime and violence and be a cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars.

2. Crime occurs in all areas within the Oakland community and is a concern to residents of the City of Oakland.

3. Crime in Oakland tears apart families and destabilizes communities.

4. Crime in Oakland disrupts local commercial activity, reduces business and industrial productivity, deters tourism and outside financial investments, and reduces the value of real estate.

5. Limited police services results in too few officers on the streets, inadequate support for victims, deficient

investigations, slow response times, insufficient data analysis and unaddressed community issues.

6. Police services technicians can be cost effective in supporting and performing many of the sworn police officer responsibilities, including significant investigative and data analysis activities as well as responding to non-dangerous calls for service.

7. Adding additional police officers and police services technicians is a matter of significant interest to residents of the City of Oakland.

8. Adding additional police officers and police services technicians is crucial to effectively impacting all crime and violence in Oakland, especially drug and gang related homicides, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and juvenile crime.

9. With the addition of police personnel and a data management system:

- the Oakland Police Department will be able to reduce response times to calls for service and provide more police in our neighborhoods,
- the Oakland Police Department will be able to better serve crime victims and conduct more efficient and thorough investigations leading to the arrests and convictions of those responsible for committing crimes,
- the Oakland Police Department will be able to improve crime data collection and analysis, enhancing data-driven policing strategies to rapidly identify emerging trends and employ preventative policing,
- the Oakland Police Department will have significantly more capacity focused on reducing homicides and violent crimes, and
- the Oakland Police Department will have more resources to dedicate to prevention and education to keep communities safe and keep youth out of gangs, violence and crime.

10. This special tax is based on a community assessment of the need to increase public services and is intended to be proportional to and based on estimates of typical use and benefit from these municipal services.

11. The apportionment of the parcel tax to various types of properties is based, in part, on the intensity of policing needed for different kinds of land uses and on the average number of occupants of a parcel of each type of property. Users of residential property typically generate more calls for service to the police department, and the intensity of use of police services increases as the number of residential units on a parcel increases. On the other hand, because of the typically large size of commercial and industrial parcels, and because the employees who work for businesses located on such parcels and the customers who visit such businesses generally outnumber the residents of even a similarly sized parcel of residential property (partly because non-residentially developed real property often has more than one business operating on it), the tax on commercial/industrial properties is calculated based on Single Family Residential Unit Equivalent units.