



Legislation Text

File #: Resolution 47-2019, **Version:** 1

Agenda Date: 10/1/2019

Subject:

Resolution 47-2019: Supporting the Safer Arapahoe County Public Safety ballot initiative

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PURPOSE:

Arapahoe County requests support for their Safer Arapahoe County Public Safety ballot initiative.

PRESENTATIONS:

Staff Presenter(s): N/A

Additional Presenter(s): N/A

SUMMARY:

Measure 1A asks Arapahoe County voters for a property tax increase (3.4 mills, approximately \$5.66 per month for the average homeowner per Arapahoe County materials), to raise \$46 million per year to build and operate a new county jail as well as programs specifically addressing mental health, addiction, job training, etc. Sunset occurs when the bonds to build the facility are paid off, at which time Arapahoe County will reduce 1.1 mills from property tax.

PRIOR ACTIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

None

ANALYSIS:

Staff Analysis

Littleton Police Department does not see any disadvantages to building the new facility. While no one knows for certain, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that the sheriff will need to limit jail bed space, should the ballot issue not pass. This can lead to the need to reduce inmate population and restrict access to some new arrestees.

Jefferson County (Jeffco) is experiencing a similar issue with proposed budget cuts. Sheriff Shrader advised a group of chiefs recently that the Jeffco Jail will need to limit inmate population due to budget issues; translating to the jail not accepting any new inmates who are arrested for any crimes below a class 3 felony. All agree that approach poses a significant public safety threat to the community. Jeffco also has a ballot initiative for November that will address this issue if passed.

While the Arapahoe County Jail situation isn't exactly the same as Jeffco, it does show how limiting jail capacity can have a negative effect on public safety. This is the primary reason we support the new jail.

In addition, secondary benefits of the new facility including faster intake processing times, enhanced on-site medical services, and a robust mental health program for inmates - which may have a long term positive affect on recidivism.

Council Goal, Objective, and/or Guiding Principle

Littleton will remain ENGAGED and civic-minded in all matters affecting the direction and priorities of city government and the

community.

Fiscal Impacts

None - There may be slight impacts down the line, in terms of staff time and community services, but it is not feasible to predict or monetize those potential impacts at this point in time.

Alternatives

Approve - Council can approve this resolution showing support for the ballot initiative.

Not approve - If not supported, there may be impacts to the city's relationship with the county, Littleton Police Department operations, and potentially the quality of our community.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution supporting the Safer Arapahoe County ballot initiative.