

City of Norman, Oklahoma
Citizen's Public Safety Oversight Committee
Annual Report
2012

Introduction

On May 13, 2008, a special election was held in the City of Norman providing for the assessment of a sales tax of one half of one percent (.5%) in addition to the present City and State sales tax for staffing of forty-one (41) additional Police personnel and thirty (30) additional Fire personnel. The additional sales tax was also to be used for vehicles and equipment for such personnel, acquiring, constructing, and equipping two new fire stations. The proposition was approved with a vote of 8,301 in favor to 4,307 opposed.

Creation and Purpose

The Ordinance calling the election provided for the establishment of a Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee (CPSOC) to review the expenditures of such monies and submit recommendations to the City Council regarding such expenditures. Further the CPSOC was to review the expenditures of revenues collected to determine if such funds were expended for the purposes specified and monitor the successful implementation of community oriented policing concepts. The Ordinance called for the committee to issue reports on their findings to the City Council and the public on an annual basis or as requested by Council. (See Appendices A and B).

The concept of community oriented policing (COP) was first implemented by the Norman Police Department in 1993. Soon after the implementation of this philosophy, the department observed success in partnering with the community and addressing problems. Problem solving became a proactive task rather than a reactive one. However, over the next fifteen years, the department's COP approach was weakened by inadequate staffing levels and increasing population and calls for service.

Membership

The Norman City Council, in its meeting of February 10, 2009, appointed the Citizen's Public Safety Oversight Committee. The original members of the committee are: Chair David Wilson, members Don Allen, Keith Allen, W.E. Duff, Malaka Elyazgi, George Henderson, Don Holyfield, Emily Meazell and Vice Chair Mary Sue Schnell. At the June 12, 2012 meeting City Council approved the appointment of Eddie Sims to fill the vacancy in Ward 7. Mr. Sims' term is from June 12, 2012 to February 10, 2013. At the October 9, 2012, meeting City Council approved the appointment of James Wheatley to fill the vacancy in Ward 5. Mr. Wheatley's term is from October 9, 2012 to February 10, 2014.

Meeting Schedule – (see Appendix C for Corresponding Agendas)

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| January 12, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| February 9, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| March 8, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| April 12, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| May 10, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 14, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| July 12, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| August 9, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| September 13, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| October 11, 2012 | Meeting Cancelled |
| November 8, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |
| December 13, 2012 | Monthly Meeting |

Discussion Items

Topics of discussion involved Public Safety Sales Tax revenues and expenses for each month with Finance Director Anthony Francisco. Detailed financial information is included under the Financial Report section of this document.

Members of the Police Command staff presented information regarding the Community Oriented Policing Five year Implementation Plan and the Annual Work Plan. (See Appendices D and E).

Other topics of discussion included:

- Problem Oriented Policing
- COP Efforts in Higher Crime Areas
- Synopsis of COP Efforts to Enhance Community
- Code Enforcement Partnership with Police
- Rehabilitation of the Smalley Center
- Coalition against the Financial Exploitation of the Elderly (CAFPE)
- Norman Police Department's Officer Evaluations
- Prioritized Capital Project Needs
- TEAM
- Anti-Bullying Initiative
- Police Academy Class of 2012

Chief Fullingim and the committee discussed the Fire Department's capital equipment and improvement needs; timeline for Fire Station No. 9 and Fire Academies held with updates on progress of fire recruit training.

During 2012, individual Committee Members have discussed topics including:

- A special needs recovery shelter
- Additional staffing in preparedness (emergency management)
- An independent communications/EOC building
- The problems associated with dividing the Police Operations into separate campuses
- The use of medically equipped SUV's instead of using Fire Trucks for medical emergencies calls
- Increase efforts to publicize COP activities
- The importance of documenting COP hours to show the public that the principal of COP are working
- More Officers at schools interacting with students

Accomplishments

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The Committee continued its work meeting monthly to review revenue and expenditures reports as well as monitoring the successful revitalization of the community oriented policing philosophy. The Committee has tracked and supported the Norman Police Department T.E.A.M. program which is in partnership with the Norman Public School System. The Committee has voiced support for the Anti-Bullying Initiative that is being developed in conjunction with the Norman Public Schools.

This year the Committee followed the progress of the Norman Police Citizens' Police Academy program. This program was developed by the Norman Police Department to allow citizens to learn about police functions, police operations, and the organization of the police system in the City of Norman.

The purpose of the revenues collected through the Public Safety Sales Tax included staffing, vehicles and equipment for the Police Department. Year four of the plan called for an additional five Police personnel to be added to the force. The Committee reports that five recruits have completed the Police Academy and Field Training and are now on solo assignments.

The Committee reports that one Fire Academy was held in 2012 and fifteen Firefighters from Public Safety Sales Tax graduated. The Committee heard presentations from both Police and Fire regarding long term capital needs of the departments.

Financial Report

On May 13, 2008, the citizens of Norman voted on and approved a temporary 7-year, one-half percent (0.5%) Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) in order to increase the number of police officers and firefighters, and to construct and equip two new fire stations. The new sales tax began October 1, 2008 and will terminate on September 30, 2015. The City received its first sales tax remittance from the Oklahoma Tax Commission on December 18, 2008. After four years of collection, \$32,717,020 has been collected from the PSST. An additional \$1,457,995 has been collected from the related Public Safety Use Tax (a sales tax levied on purchases made outside of the city for use within the city). Interest earned from investing the taxes have earned the PSST Fund an additional \$190,734. Total expenditures to date from PSST funds are \$27,343,085 (see Appendix F for a revenue and expenditure analysis by month).

During the course of 2012, the PSST Oversight Committee had requested an overview of the last five years showing the increases and decreases in the General Fund Budget for public safety. Information was distributed to the Committee that showed the budgeted and actual Police and Fire department expenditures in total and included number of new and replaced police and fire vehicles in the General and PSST funds, as well as staff figures for both funds.

As part of the adoption of the Fiscal Year Ending 2013 Budget on June 12th, 2012, City Council approved the appropriation of Public Safety Sales Tax funds in the amount of \$1,127,450 for the renovation of the Smalley Center. The PSST Oversight Committee was presented with information regarding the renovation of the Smalley Center in May of 2011 and in June of 2012, but no formal action was taken by the committee.

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As illustrated below, as of December 31 of each year, the City of Norman has followed the approved Staffing Plan in adding personnel to the budgeted workforce, and is proceeding on pace with adding personnel as anticipated by the PSST Ordinance.

**Total Public Safety Personnel
Public Safety Sales Tax Staffing Plan**

| | Firefighters | Commissioned Police Officers |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| FY 2008 | 0 | 0 |
| FY 2009 | 0 | 12 |
| FY 2010 | 15 | 9 |
| FY 2011 | 0 | 9 |
| FY 2012 | 15 | 5 |
| FY 2013 | 0 | 2 |
| FY 2014 | 0 | 2 |
| FY 2015 | 0 | 2 |
| | | |
| Total | 30 | 41 |

Total Public Safety Personnel*

| | Firefighters | | Commissioned Police Officers | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| | Budgeted | Filled 12/31 | Budgeted | Filled 12/31 |
| FY 2008 | 127 | 120 | 134 | 125 |
| FY 2009 | 127 | 123 | 146 | 127 |
| FY 2010 | 142 | 126 | 155 | 156 |
| FY 2011 | 142 | 135 | 164 | 159 |
| FY 2012 | 157 | 129 | 169 | 165 |
| FY 2013 | 157 | 156 | 169** | 154 |
| FY 2014 | | | | |

*Only includes positions in the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), excludes all other public safety support personnel.

**In the FY 2013 Budget, one Major (FOP) position was reclassified to a non-union Deputy Police Chief position, and a Forensic Tech (FOP) position was reclassified to a non-union position, and two PSST positions were added, so no net change in total.

Plan Status

The PSST proposition defines with specificity the purpose and use of the PSST funds through the year 2015. The committee has exercised diligence insuring that expenditures have been consistent with the Council's plan for implementation. With the hiring of four (4) additional

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police patrol officers in FY-2014/15 and the opening of Fire Station No.9 later this year, the implementation plan will be substantially complete. Excess funding may be available and should be utilized for additional priority needs that have not been previously identified. The proposition crafted by the Council and approved by the voters gives the Council latitude to address other public safety needs not specifically enumerated in the implementation plan. Over the years numerous discussions have evolved that strongly suggest both departments have pressing current capital needs. These needs are described as high priority by both department heads and are identified in Attachment G. Having spent a number of hours and exhaustive discussions evaluating their respective justifications for each of these requests the committee strongly recommends the Council give due consideration during the FY-2014 budget reviews. The Committee encourages Council to reserve an amount equal to a minimum one year of salaries and benefits for the positions added with PSST funds before expending any excess funds on those items identified in Appendix G.

Findings and Conclusions

The Committee reports that City staff has been responsive to information requests and guidance as such requests have been made. Public Safety Sales Tax expenditures have been extensively reviewed by the committee and the committee finds such expenditures have been made in accordance with the Ordinance establishing the parameters for such expenditures.

Looking Forward to 2014

In the future, the committee will continue monitoring activities designated in the COP Five Year Plan and the COP Annual Work Plan as well as monitoring expenditures and revenues associated with the Public Safety Sales Tax collections. The Committee looks forward to the completion of Fire Station No. 9 and staffing of this station. The Committee also looks forward to the partnerships with the Norman Public Schools on the TEAM Program and the Anti-Bullying Initiative.

Finally, members of the committee would like to express our appreciation to the Council for your support. The committee stands ready to assist the Council in whatever advisory capacity you deem appropriate.

The Citizen's Public Safety Oversight Committee 2012 Annual Report was approved unanimously at the CPSOC meeting on April 11, 2013 with the recommendation that it be forwarded to City Council as required by Ordinance 0-0708-32.