



# The City of NORMAN

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May 14, 2021

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
Honorable Trustees of the Norman Municipal Authority  
201 West Gray Street  
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Mayor/Chair Clark and Council Members/Trustees:

At the May 13, 2021 meeting, the Public Safety Sales Tax Citizen's Oversight Committee ('PSST Committee') voted unanimously to recommend to the Council to allocate funding from the City of Norman's entitlement of American Rescue Plan Act Local Fiscal Recovery (ARPA) funds for the completion of the full scope of the Emergency Operations/Communications Center that was originally approved and partially funded by the Public Safety Sales Tax. On at least three previous occasions, the PSST Committee has recommended that the Council wait until adequate funding could be identified to supplement the available PSST funds in order to build the EOCC Building at its full scope, and that this funding should be the highest capital need for future City capital funds, general obligation bond funds, or federal assistance. The latest architectural/engineering estimates are that approximately \$9,500,000 will be needed to complete the EOCC. We understand that approximately \$22,000,000 will be available through the City of Norman's ARPA entitlement.

City staff has informed the Committee that with some (though not complete) certainty, the Emergency Operations/Communications Center project would be an eligible use of the ARPA funds, in the Responding to the Public Health Emergency category of allowable uses. In summary, the preliminary guidelines released by the U.S. Department of the Treasury state as an eligible use:

***"Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical plant improvements....or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics."***

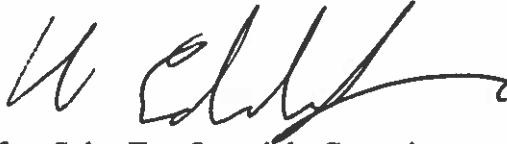
Clearly, improved public communications and emergency medical dispatch capabilities will help to mitigate against the ongoing demands of the COVID pandemic and related future emergencies. We believe that there can be no better use for these one-time federal funds than to build the EOCC at its full scope, similar to the high priority that the Council placed on allocating Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act reimbursement funds to build the Senior Citizen's Wellness Center at its full scope.

We urge the Council to immediately appropriate \$9,500,000 in ARPA funds, as they become available to the City, to the EOCC project and to move the voter-approved EOCC project forward as quickly as possible.

We are glad to respond to any questions you have regarding our discussion and this action.

Sincerely,

Eddie Sims, Chair  
Citizen's Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Sims', written over the printed name.

EC: PSST Citizen's Oversight Committee  
Darrel Pyle, City Manager/NMA General Manager  
Kevin Foster, City of Norman Police Chief  
Travis King, City of Norman Fire Chief  
Anthony Francisco, City of Norman Finance Director/NMA Treasurer  
Kathryn Walker, Norman City Attorney/NMA General Counsel