



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Contact:

Connie Cochran
Public Information Officer
(209) 937-8827
connie.cochran@stocktongov.com

STOCKTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVES BALLOT MEASURE PROPOSAL

(Stockton, CA) - The Stockton City Council approved moving forward with placing a three-quarter cent sales tax measure before the voters on a November 5, 2013 ballot with a Council vote of 7 – 0.

“We have debated these fundamental issues in these Council chambers over the months,” said Councilmember Moses Zapien. “It is now time to move the debate from City Hall to the community and put it in the hands of the voters. You, the voters, will now have the ultimate say to determine the course of the City and our future.”

If approved by the voters, the tax will go into effect next year. It is anticipated that the City would realize a benefit of approximately \$28 million per year in the future.

In addition to this general tax measure, there is a proposed companion measure that will also be on the ballot, referred to as an advisory measure. The advisory measure defines the terms and conditions and what is to be accomplished with this tax: restoring public safety under the Marshall Plan (65%), bankruptcy recovery and restoring the City’s

-more-more-more-

City of Stockton
News Release – 2013 Ballot Measure
Tuesday, July 9, 2013
Page 2 of 3

fiscal footing (35%). The revenues and expenditures will be subject to annual audits by an independent auditor, and the results will be posted on the City's web site.

If the measures are approved by the voters, a seven-member Citizens Oversight Committee would be appointed by the Council. The Committee would meet at least annually; review all expenditures and revenues from the tax measure; make at least annual reports to the Council; and measure economic recovery to determine when the tax should sunset.

The proposed tax can only continue as long as it is needed. It will sunset when the City's general fund revenues regain those of 2009 levels (adjusted for inflation) or in 10 years. If the Council does not take specific action, the tax will end. The Council can only extend the tax after specific analysis and review, hearing recommendations from the Citizens Oversight Committee and holding two noticed public meetings at least two weeks apart. Should a future Council determine that it is necessary to continue the tax, they must adopt findings that the tax is still necessary and that employee total compensation is not excessive.

Specific uses for the Marshall Plan for public safety were developed after a series of Town Hall Meetings with participation from the community. The Marshall Plan includes an additional 120 police officers over the next 3 years – or sooner; maintaining and expanding Peacekeeper and Ceasefire programs; equipment, training and support for a larger police force; neighborhood improvement and stabilization strategies; and establishing a small

-more-more-more-

City of Stockton
News Release – 2013 Ballot Measure
Tuesday, July 9, 2013
Page 3 of 3

Office of Violence Reduction and Prevention to sustain the Marshall Plan and partner with other agencies and the community.

The City currently has a one-quarter cent dedicated sales tax passed in 2004 with Measure W. These funds have and will continue to be used exclusively for police and fire. With an additional three-quarter cent sales tax, sales tax within the City of Stockton will be 9%, which is the same sales tax rate as the cities of Lathrop and Livermore, and the City of Stockton will receive 1% of the 9%.

For additional information, please call Connie Cochran, Public Information Officer, at (209) 937-8827.

###

All News Releases can be found on the City of Stockton website. www.stocktongov.com/news

#