

# Agenda Report



**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Police Chief Honda

**SUBJECT:** WATSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT –  
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020

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## **STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

Status report for the Watsonville Police Department to the Revenue Oversight Committee.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Motion accepting the Watsonville Police Department status report for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Background**

The Watsonville Police Department (WPD) strives to create a healthy, safe and thriving Watsonville through our mission: committing ourselves to public safety through engagement, education, enforcement, and professional development by impacting our community in positive ways, every day, through strong relationship and problem solving. WPD is dedicated in providing public safety to the community using the core values of character, competency, compassion and communication. The department will continue to provide services and prioritize the safety and well-being of the Watsonville community.

### **Measure G/Measure Y**

On June 3, 2014, Measure G was approved by the voters to provide a secure, local revenue stream to the City of Watsonville that shall be used entirely to provide additional police and fire personnel, update public safety equipment, facilities and services, and enhance youth violence prevention programs to protect our community.

On March 3, 2020, the voters approved Measure Y (formally known as Measure G) to renew the existing local sales tax to maintain adequate staffing levels of firefighters and police, continue funding of youth prevention and development programs, and include the Parks & Community Services Department as a new partner to the Police and Fire Departments.

This public safety sales tax measure supports the WPD's mission by funding sworn and professional personnel, it allows the department to continue to maintain adequate police emergency response times; neighborhood patrols; and youth intervention and suppression efforts. In addition, the sales tax continues to support the upgrade of equipment and technology to help solve crimes and enhance community services while increasing efficiency.

Below is a list of the personnel funded by the local sales tax:

<b>Position</b>	<b># of Positions Jan – Jun 2020</b>	<b># of Positions Jul – Dec 2020</b>	<b>Status</b>
Police Officers	7	7	5 Filled
Police Service Specialists	2	1	Filled
Property & Evidence Technician	1	1	Filled
Crime Analyst	1	1	Filled
Youth Specialist	1	1	Filled
Recreation Supervisor	1	0	Funded by General Fund
Recreation Specialist	1	0	

Effective July 1, 2020, the recreation supervisor and the recreation specialist were transferred to the general fund. In addition, due to budget constraints and the uncertainty of future sales tax revenue, the WPD eliminated a vacant Police Service Specialist position, lowering the number of funded positions to 11. During this reporting period, two (2) police officers resigned, however, the WPD is anticipating filling these positions by March 1, 2021.

Measure Y funded the following trainings, vehicles and specialized department equipment:

- Trainings such as crime scene fundamentals, background investigations, mental health interventions, trauma informed leadership, interview and interrogation, sexual assault investigations, field training officer updates and basic police academy among others, totaling \$38,263. The WPD also focuses on trainings related to community wellness, such as mental health and trauma informed care which allow officers to recognize and respond to various behavioral health conditions, de-escalation and provide them with communication tools to address mental health and individuals in crisis.
- GO-4 (utility vehicle used by parking enforcement) and three (3) patrol vehicles, totaling \$178,923. The sales tax has allowed the WPD to have a program that allows for the replacement of high mileage patrol vehicles which reduces the cost of maintenance and provides officers will reliable vehicles to respond to the community.
- Gas masks, protective equipment used in cases of airborne pollutants and toxic gases, totaling \$31,610, equipment needed to respond to civil unrest situations.
- Crossroads interface, a traffic collision database for data input and management, queries and reports and data analysis for traffic collisions, citations and DUI's, totaling \$29,070. Crossroads also allows staff to use this information to apply for

traffic grants that help fund best practice strategies in reducing injuries caused by traffic accidents.

- InTime, a software that facilitates the workforce management and complex scheduling needs of law enforcement, totaling \$11,400. InTime has increased productivity, reduces personnel cost and keeps track of equipment.
- DORS, a desk online reporting system that allows community members to report crimes online, totaling \$8,500. DORS has improved response times because it allows officers to attend to higher priority calls and it provides the community with a secure online reporting system that's available 24/7.

### ***Police Activities League (PAL)***

Measure Y funded the Police Activities League (PAL), a youth prevention program that relies on educational, athletic and other recreational activities to increase the bond among police officers, recreation leaders, youth and their parents. At the start of 2020, PAL provided programming such as outdoor sports, self-defense, arts and crafts, group outings at beaches and parks and movie nights. COVID-19 halted programming in early March which led to the development of virtual opportunities for youth, such as the Virtual Easter Egg Hunt in April 2020. With the assistance of the Police, Fire and the Parks and Community Services Department, 200 goodie bags were delivered to youth in the community. In July 2020, the PAL division was transferred to the General Fund, however, while funded by the local sales tax, PAL was able to serve a total of 744 youth. Even though the PAL program is not directly funded by the special sales tax, PAL continues to be an integral part of youth programming in the Watsonville Police Department because it continues to provide pro-social services to the youth participating in the Caminos hacia el Éxito Program.

### ***Caminos hacia el Éxito***

Measure Y funds the Caminos hacia el Éxito Program, a diversion program for Watsonville youth who commit a first offense (misdemeanor), it uses evidence-based approaches to hold the youth accountable for their actions. Eligible youth and their families are provided with evidence-based activities such as case management, cognitive behavior therapy, counseling, Teen Peer Court, Neighborhood Accountability Board, mentoring, pro-social activities and Guiding Good Choices, a program proven to reduce juvenile delinquency that improves parents' skills and bonding. Due to COVID, these services have been provided to the participants virtually. To date, 174 youth have been referred and 132 have successfully completed the program. Of the youth that completed the program successfully, 76% remain arrest free. The WPD attributes the success of this program to the strong collaboration with our partners: Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc., Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Police Activities League, Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the County of Santa Cruz Probation Department.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The Watsonville City Council has made Public Safety a priority in the Strategic Plan and the Watsonville Police Department has used the local sales tax to support this priority. The personnel, public safety equipment and youth programming has enhanced the services provided to the Watsonville community.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact. Measure Y funds are being utilized as directed by the voters.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):** None.