

From: [Darcy Dea](#)
To: [Eric Hinebauch](#); [Joe McKenney](#); [Bob Kelly](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Susan Wolff](#)
Cc: [Lisa C. Kunz](#); [Krista Artis](#); [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [David Dennis](#); [Steve Bolstad](#); [Jeff Newton](#)
Subject: FW: comments for 11/1 work session agenda item "Crime Task Force Updates / Safety Levy"
Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 10:36:14 AM

Work Session Agenda Item 3.

Thank you,

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From: Darcy Dea
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 10:33 AM
To: 'Terry Bjork' <tlbjork@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: comments for 11/1 work session agenda item "Crime Task Force Updates / Safety Levy"

Good Morning Terry – thank you for your comments. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration of agenda item 3 on this evening’s work session agenda.

Thank you,

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From: Terry Bjork <tlbjork@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 10:25 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: comments for 11/1 work session agenda item "Crime Task Force Updates / Safety Levy"

Commissioners

These comments are in regard to the Public Safety Levy Community Education Program RFP agenda item.

First off this seems to me rather putting the cart before the horse because the public hasn't seen details of the proposed levy yet, or had opportunity to debate/comment on those details. Additionally I have several specific suggestions about the proposed RFP.

1) The “Situational Analysis” says the proposed levy will be for the unfunded items for the Police Dept, City Attorney’s Office, and Municipal Court. Presumably these are primarily the

Task Force's recommended additional headcounts for each department. It might be helpful to add to the RFP's public education requirement "provide detailed business justification" for each of the proposed new positions, because some of them just appeared out of the blue during the final deliberations of the Task Force. While the police dept had laid a good foundation for its requests in presentations prior to the creation of the CTF recommendations, not all headcount proposals had that foundation. For instance at about the 30 minute mark of the 9/13/21 meeting former City Attorney Sexe can be heard adding positions to the list like a kid in a candy store. Businesses have to prepare formal headcount addition justifications, and we expect government to do it too. Voters deserve to know what they're being asked to fund in detail, and why, and what business sense that makes, especially when it is perpetuity. Also refer here to the later Goals section about providing taxpayers information about this levy, and the Objective there that says Information should be based on data and fact.

2) It would also be helpful to educate the public on why the money being requested is only for expensive permanent public headcount to address crime after it has already occurred, while seemingly none is being requested for one-time measures that might prevent crime in the first place, like adding lighting in neighborhoods that have none (e.g., Skyline area), or longer term measures like working to get people off the drugs that drive so much of the City's crime.

3) During the course of the Task Force meetings/deliberations Commissioner Tryon was fond of saying he received constant complaints that people were just tired of their garages being broken into. Thus it would be helpful to the justification for this levy to detail how these new city positions are going to accomplish a reduction in garage break-ins and other crimes, and by how much and how fast, and how the success or failure will be measured down the road. Again, back the request with data and fact.

4) Also under Objectives there's an item that says "provides a historical perspective on the Public Safety Continuum". The population of Great Falls in 1970 was around 55,000 and now according to the 2020 census is barely over 60,000. So a population growth of about 10% in Great Falls over 50 years. (Additionally the population of Cascade County as a whole is seemingly less now than 1970.) So as part of this historical perspective it might be helpful to detail how many 1970 headcount the City had in Police, City Attorney, and Municipal Court, and explain why we need X% more (or less) today compared to that 10% growth over 50 years.

Thank you for your consideration,
Terry Bjork
Great Falls