

RESOLUTION NO. 10544

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the protection of life and property is amongst the highest priorities of the City of Great Falls; and

WHEREAS, due to mounting community concerns about the City's increasing crime rates, and that first responders are increasingly called upon for requests such as homelessness, mental health, and domestic disputes which often require connection to ongoing services, the Great Falls City Commission established the Great Falls Crime Task Force in 2021 for the primary purpose to study, review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the City Commission, City Manager, and general public on strategies to address crime. The Crime Task Force provided numerous recommendations that were further summarized into action items; and

WHEREAS, upon further discussions with the City Commission, there was general recognition that the City's broader public safety response posture was inadequate, and is unable to service current and future needs of a growing community. The General Fund, capped by a statewide property tax cap, is unable to sufficiently meet the service level desired by the taxpayers and fund the broad continuum of public safety needs across fire, police, court and legal departments; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing and that the last successful voter approved safety request was in the late 1960's, the City Commission adopted Resolutions in 2023 that submitted to the electors the questions of permanently increasing the mill levies of the City to pay costs of public safety services and issuing general obligation bonds for the purpose of paying costs of public safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, due to both those ballot measures being turned down by the voters at the November 7, 2023 election, the Great Falls City Commission seeks to establish a Public Safety Advisory Committee to make recommendations on public safety funding and/or service reduction in Great Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: There is hereby established the Great Falls Public Safety Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as "PSAC"). The efforts of the PSAC shall be focused on the following areas:

- Recommend broad priorities for public safety;
- Recommend priorities for Police, Fire, Court and Legal Departments;

- Recommend strategies for funding public safety priorities;
- Recommend Strategies to engage a broad spectrum of community members and businesses

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP: Sandra Guynn, Mike Parcel, Wendy McKamey, Jeni Dodd, George Nikolakakos, Aaron Weissman, Tony Rosales, Thad Reiste, Joe McKenney, and Shannon Wilson.

SECTION 3: MEETINGS AND RULES: Pursuant to Montana’s open meeting laws, all meetings of the PSAC shall be properly noticed at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting, include an agenda of topics/items to be discussed, allow for public comment on agenda items and for public comment on items not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the PSAC. Appropriate Minutes of all meetings shall be kept and be made available for inspection by the public.

SECTION 4: The PSAC members shall select a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. The City Manager shall appoint a staff member to keep all records of the PSAC and take minutes of all meetings, and submit them to the City Clerk. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The PSAC shall meet as often as necessary to accomplish its general purpose, as described in Section 1, but not less than once a month.

SECTION 5: Members of the PSAC shall comply with the Code of Ethics set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § Title 2, Chapter 2, and the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) Title 2, Chapter 21.

SECTION 6: The PSAC shall meet with the goals of having recommendations to present to the City Commission no later than September 2, 2024. The PSAC shall be disbanded and cease to exist after receipt of the recommendations by the City Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 2nd day of April, 2024.

Cory Reeves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David Dennis, City Attorney