



*Press Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 1, 2015**

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***HEMET RESIDENTS HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY***  
***Residents Interested in Providing Voter-Approved Local Funding to***  
***Support Police and Fire Services***

HEMET, CA – September 1, 2015

A recently commissioned independent survey shows residents in the City of Hemet are concerned about public safety in the community and interested in providing additional local funding for police and fire services. The Community Revenue Options Survey was conducted August 6 through 15, 2015 by the highly respected opinion research firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3 Research).

Respondents were very concerned about public safety with 81% of respondents saying crime in general was an “extremely” or “very” serious problem.

“We are proud of our city, but drug and crime issues have reached unacceptable levels in Hemet with more and more gang members and parolees coming in from other Southern California communities,” said Hemet Police Chief Dave Brown. “Additional sworn police officers and anti-gang/drug units are needed on the streets to improve safety for residents.”

Respondents also overwhelmingly oppose any cuts to public safety services. Over 75% of respondents said they wanted “no cuts” to 911 paramedic and emergency response services, police and fire protection/departments, the number of sworn police officers and firefighters, police and firefighting equipment, police anti-drug units, and police anti-gang units.

“Paramedic and emergency response times for 911 calls are critical for saving lives,” said Hemet Fire Chief Scott Brown. “It’s vitally important that we maintain rapid response times for our City’s paramedics, firefighters and emergency medical workers who need to be first on the scene to rapidly respond to medical and fire emergencies.”

Respondents overwhelmingly believe the City needs additional funding with 72% saying there was “great” or “some” need for additional funds. A near majority (49%) said there was “great need” for additional funding.

The survey also evaluated a number of community revenue enhancement options. Constituents expressed strong interest in the concept of providing local, voter-approved funding to support police and fire services, with favorable percentages as high as 80%.

“We look forward to further discussing public safety needs with the community and evaluating potential revenue options,” said Police Chief Dave Brown. “We are encouraged that the community is open to providing local funding for public safety. Over the coming weeks, we will work hard to solicit additional input from the community on the best way to proceed in ensuring and improving public safety and quality of life in Hemet.

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