

# **Measure T Recommendations to City Council - June 26, 2017**

**Presented by Kristin Majda, Chair of the Measure T Oversight Committee**

1. Good evening Mayor Crosswhite and esteemed members of the Santa Paula City Council. The Measure T Oversight Committee was appointed by your body on April 3, 2017 and convened for our first meeting on May 22, 2017. The Committee chose me to serve as Chair and, likewise, elected me to come before you today to formally present the Committee's recommendations regarding expenditure of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 revenue from the one percent general sales tax resulting known as Measure T.
2. The Measure T Oversight Committee consists of five members:  
**Myself, Kristin Majda** - serving as the Committee Chair  
**Jose Luis Melgar** - serving as the Committee Vice Chair  
**Rose Chacon** - serving as a member at large  
**Johnny Flores** - serving as a member at large  
**Andy Sobel** - serving as a member at large
3. On behalf of the entire Committee, we wish to express how honored we are to represent the citizens of Santa Paula. Since our initial meeting on May 22nd, the entire Committee has worked hard and invested a lot of time into educating ourselves about City finance and the City budget. We have independently met with the various agency heads, community organizations, and community members to learn as much as possible and gauge the public's desire regarding expenditure of the Measure T funds. We understand the great responsibility that was bestowed upon us and have been humbled by this opportunity to interact with so many talented people who work for the City of Santa Paula and the many passionate citizens who advocate on behalf of our community.
4. Contrary to what was stated this evening during the presentation of the proposed budget, the Measure T Committee did have extensive discussions regarding details of spending the Measure T funds. However, because of the extremely limited amount of time we had to prepare our recommendation and the fact that the city budget has been a moving target, the Committee was not able to submit to you a full written report this evening. However, *I will be* presenting a set of recommendations for you on behalf of the entire Committee; and the Measure T Committee is working on a formal report that will provide additional information and insight to support these recommendations to be delivered to you at a later date. In addition, the Committee plans to reconvene at the end of this calendar year to review expenditures thus far and provide an interim set of recommendations that are dependent on decisions that are still being made and other information not yet available.
5. These recommendations I am about to state are the formal recommendations of the Measure T Committee. We have come to a firm consensus and are united in these recommendations. Though Mr. Sidel stated that the recommended budget he presented is based on interpretation of what he heard and city staff heard at the Measure T Committee meetings, I want to emphasize that their interpretation of our meetings is not our formal recommendation, nor does their budget recommendation necessarily reflect the actual recommendations of the Measure T Committee, which are presented here within. That said, we understand their need to present a recommended balanced budget to you today and understand how difficult it has been for them to develop this budget recommendation. I just want to make it clear that the Measure T Committee has not had an opportunity to review this budget proposal and does not necessarily endorse the allocations listed in the Fund 104 Measure T column.
6. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that you balance the budget as if there were no Measure T funds, and then allocate the Measure T funds according to the recommendations outlined by this Committee. This means that if you make cuts to the budget in your effort to balance the City's budget, you should not make higher cuts to police, fire, public works and community services in anticipation of having additional funding from Measure T to support those agencies.

7. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that the majority, if not all, of the Measure T Revenue be used to enhance police, fire, and youth services, and to support maintenance and repair of city streets. We believe this was the intention of the voters, which is supported by the results of the Measure T survey conduct last fall.
8. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that 50% of the Measure T revenue be allocated towards Police Services. The Committee recommends these additional funds be used on things such as increasing police salaries to make them more competitive with other Ventura County cities; hiring more police officers, and provide funding to enhance police services. It is the intention of this Committee that additional funding for Police Services from Measure T support programs and services that prevent crime as opposed to being used solely on programs and services that are strictly reactionary.
9. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that 20% of the Measure T revenue be set aside in reserve in the event that the annexation of Santa Paula Fire Department by Ventura County Fire fails to occur for whatever reason. In this event, this money would be used to ensure continuation of adequate fire service for the City of Santa Paula. In the event that the annexation does occur, this Committee will provide an interim report with updated recommendations for how to spend this 20% of Measure T funds after November 1, 2017.
10. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that 5% of the Measure T revenue be allocated to the Public Works Department to support full implementation of the Pavement Management Plan.
11. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that 5% of the Measure T revenue be allocated to the Community Services Department to offset recent budget cuts and provide additional funding to restore youth programs facilitated by the Community Services Department.
12. It is the **recommendation** of this Committee that 20% of the Measure T revenue be reserved for Youth Programs and Services to be used as follows:
  - A. The Committee recommends that the City conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of youth programs and services to determine what needs exist, where current resources already exist, and where gaps in programs and services exist.
  - B. The Committee recommends that community outreach and input be a large part of the process of conducting the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
  - C. The Committee recommends that the Needs Assessment be completed before November as it is the intention of this Committee to reconvene in November to form an interim report with updated recommendations.
  - D. It is the intention of this Committee that the cost of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment will take up very little of the 20% set aside for Youth and that the remaining funds be retained in the reserve account until the Needs Assessment is completed and this Committee can review the results and provide updated recommendations based on those results.
13. I cannot emphasize enough how strongly the Committee urges you to not spend the money we recommend be set aside in reserve - the 20% for fire services and the 20% for youth programs and services minus cost of the Needs Analysis. We urge you to set aside these funds until the Fire Annexation is resolved and critical information is obtained from the Needs Assessment. We will come back with interim recommendations at the end of the year once this information has come to fruition.