



NEWS



News Headlines 10/26/2017

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Two Yucca Valley car fires out before firefighters arrive

Z107.7 News

Posted: October 26, 2017

Yucca Valley firefighters responded to two car fires Wednesday afternoon, only to find that the fires had been put out by others before they arrived. The first car fire was in the Walmart parking lot at 2:20 p.m.; a responding Sheriff's deputy put out the blaze with a fire extinguisher from his patrol car. The second car fire was near Deer and Pueblo Trails just after 4 p.m. A Yucca Valley code enforcement officer used a fire extinguisher in her vehicle to put out the flames. While praising the quick work by the deputy and code enforcement officer, County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle joked, "How would they like it if we caught the bad guys?"

<http://z1077fm.com/two-yucca-valley-car-fires-out-before-firefighters-arrive/>

In last-ditch effort, officials seek to underscore: Accountability solid on Measure K

Shea Johnson, The Daily Press

Posted: October 25, 2017, 4:40 PM

About Measure K:



Measure K proposes a 1/2-cent sales tax to expand safety services for Victorville's growing population.

The estimated \$8.5 M in additional revenue must be used to:

-  Add 15 Firefighter/Paramedics
-  Open Fire Station 315
-  Add a Paramedic Squad
-  Add 10 Police Officers

Your Cost:

Additional sales tax of
50 cents on a \$100 purchase

Additional information can be found at:
www.victorvilleca.gov

*Visitors would help pay for public safety.
*The funds would be 100% dedicated to public safety.

The city of Victorville recently sent more than 30,000 informational mailers on Measure K to voters.

Accountability for the anticipated \$8.5 million has been arguably the most crucial message for city leaders, who might need to convince any voters that may be leery of governmental mismanagement.

VICTORVILLE — In a last-ditch effort to assert the accountability of a proposed half-percent sales tax, city officials Tuesday reiterated that projected revenue was legally restricted to public safety and it would be guarded by sufficient oversight.

"If the City Council spends the funds improperly, (the state) will not give us the funds," Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cox said. "It's the way it's set up as a restricted fund."

Officials have already outlined plans for the transactions-and-use tax's estimated yearly yield of \$8.5 million, including adding 15 firefighters/paramedics and at least 10 deputies, while setting aside between \$2 million to \$3 million in reserves to address future public safety contract increases.

The supplemental funding source to general fund dollars already set aside for law enforcement and fire services is being introduced at a time when the city says its struggling to keep pace with costs. But officials, too, have been forced to defend against suspicions that Measure K funds could be misspent at the expense of taxpayers.

Cox pointed to provisions written into the ballot measure allocating projected revenue for specific use and added he wouldn't be opposed to a citizens oversight committee. City Manager Doug Robertson said the funds would be subject to a yearly audit, separate from the procedure for other city finances.

The ballot measure language also calls for the Council each year to review and re-adopt "an expenditure plan consistent with the ordinance's mandate."

Accountability for the anticipated \$8.5 million has been arguably the most crucial message for city leaders, who might need to convince any voters that may be leery of governmental mismanagement.

The issue was repeatedly raised during Tuesday's community forum on Measure K, which drew roughly 25 attendees, including city staff, and a handful of largely pro-Measure K speakers.

The Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce, two city planning commissioners, the president of developer Lee and Associates and former city Mayor Terry Caldwell each expressed support for the measure.

Some including former Councilwoman Angela Valles, who lives in Apple Valley but owns property here, urged officials to hold public discussions prior to the Nov. 7 special election with the ballot measure's two agency stakeholders: the San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire departments.

Such talks could provide answers to still lingering questions, Valles said.

The County Fire's union, which is staunchly opposed to the special tax, has raised concerns that the bulk of funds would be spent on law enforcement and over the city's non-committal relationship with the fire department.

"All I'll tell you is that a public safety tax is, majority (of revenue) doesn't go to the Fire Department," Jim Grigoli, president of Local 935, has said. "The second part is the city hasn't made any guarantees to us." City officials are currently exploring options for fire services and haven't ruled out re-launching a city-run department.

And while officials have been perplexed by the union's resistance, Cox's declaration Tuesday that the city's options extended beyond County Fire if Measure K were to pass likely did little to assuage the union's concerns.

Cox has expressed support for a contractual relationship with the department, however, and Councilman Jim Kennedy called renewing an expiring 10-year deal with **County Fire** "probably the most sensible, easy decision" if voters were to approve the supplemental funding.

Robertson also clarified a point over a seemingly inevitable annexation into County Fire — a permanent deal accompanied by a currently \$153 yearly parcel tax — if Measure K were to be shut down.

"Although it has been mentioned by multiple council members that they see that as the only option should Measure K fail," Robertson said, "that's a decision that still has to be made by the Council at some point in the future."

Councilwoman Blanca Gomez, who declared support for annexation during an Oct. 3 Council discussion on fire services, noted Tuesday that it wasn't the only outcome she backed.

"I'm in favor of all County Fire employees retaining their employment. This includes the possibility of negotiating a long-term contract," she said. "I am against a tax increase and believe that they adversely affect the poor and those on fixed incomes."

Gomez also declared she did not introduce Measure K, nor vote for it. However, she supported the Aug. 1 introduction of the measure onto the November ballot.

"Ultimately the tax is up to the people. The concern is higher taxes, period," Gomez concluded. "We should be managing our funds appropriately and utilizing partnerships to bring services to the city of Victorville at a price that we're willing to pay."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20171025/in-last-ditch-effort-officials-seek-to-underscore-accountability-solid-on-measure-k>

Head-on Crash Shuts Down Mariposa Road in Hesperia

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 25, 2017



Mariposa Road was temporarily closed while deputies investigated a head-on crash. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

Hesperia, Calif. (VVNG.com) A head-on crash temporarily shut down a stretch of Mariposa Road Wednesday night.

It happened at around 7:52 pm and was reported by a person driving on the 15 Freeway who witnessed the crash.

When deputies from the Hesperia Sheriff's Station and **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel arrived on scene, they located two sedans with major damage along Mariposa Road as it curves one mile south of Bear Valley Road.

Per scanner traffic, only one person required treatment for minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital.

A tow-truck arrived shortly after to remove the vehicles from the road which is expected to reopen shortly. The cause of the crash is currently under investigation by the Sheriff's Department.

<https://www.vvng.com/head-crash-shuts-mariposa-road-hesperia/>