



DATE: July 10, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Brian Cochran, Assistant City Manager
Jeff Schach, Fire Chief
Ken Savano, Police Chief
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SUBJECT: Progress Report on Public Safety Facilities Assessment

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council receive a presentation with recommendations from the draft Public Safety Facilities Strategic Master Plan and provide feedback to staff.

BACKGROUND

In November 2020, Petaluma voters approved Measure U, which authorized the City of Petaluma to increase the City's sales tax by 1 percent. With the passage of Measure U in November 2020 and a new Council seated in January 2021, an updated two-year Goals and Priorities for Fiscal Years 2021-23 was developed that integrated the prior list of goals from 2019-2021 and dozens of new goals and updates. At a subsequent City Council meeting on August 2, 2021, the Council approved the workplan items for fiscal years 21/22 and 22/23.

The passage of Measure U also presented an opportunity for the City to initiate a comprehensive assessment of its Police and Fire Departments that would provide a meaningful, forward-thinking evaluation of both departments' operations, organizational structure, and administration in order to provide constructive information and future strategic guidance to enhance the effectiveness of both departments. To that end, the City of Petaluma contracted with the Center for Public Safety Management LLC (CPSM) to complete operational and data analyses of the City's Police and Fire Departments in late 2021.

On March 14, 2022, staff brought to the City Council a refined list of possible goals and priorities, with the objective of prioritizing the list to a guiding "top ten list" of the most essential initiatives for staff to focus on in the immediate term. The City Council provided initial straw votes on several dozen possible initiatives, as a first step toward creating a top ten list.

On May 2, 2022, the City Council agreed on a list of ten top priority items. Included in the list was an item for a new headquarters fire station.

At the June 20, 2022, Council meeting, staff detailed milestones and timelines for each goal. In preparation for this meeting, staff determined that the construction of a new fire station would best be considered in the context of the City's public safety facility needs as a whole. Thus, staff renamed the goal to the following: Public Safety Facilities Assessment, including New and Renovated Fire Stations.

The first milestone for this goal was to complete the CPSM comprehensive analysis to evaluate current Public Safety Facilities location and operational recommendations. The CPSM analysis of the Police Department was completed in May 2022, followed by completion of the Fire Department analysis in November 2022. On November 21, 2022, staff presented the recommendations from those reports to the City Council as well as proposed action plans by both departments in response to the reports.

The second milestone for this goal was to complete a Public Safety Facilities Evaluation and Strategic Plan. Staff contracted with Laura Blake Architect, in a partnership with MW Studios, in September 2022. This strategic plan would identify public safety facility needs and determine costs to make recommended remodels, upgrades, and/or replacements. The plan also would assist the City in prioritizing and determining financial strategies for short- and long-term needs in a phased approach as necessary funding becomes available.

Staff detailed progress on the City's top ten goals in a presentation to the City Council on March 13, 2023. At that time, the Public Safety Facilities Evaluation and Strategic Plan was in development, with plans to provide an update presentation at a City Council meeting at a later date.

DISCUSSION

Petaluma's current public safety facilities consist of the following:

- Fire Station 1, 198 D Street, built in 1938
- Fire Station 2, 1001 N McDowell Blvd, built in 1982
- Fire Station 3, 831 S McDowell Blvd, built in 1971
- Police Station & Emergency Operations Center, 969 N Petaluma Blvd, built in 1968 and renovated in 1985

The strategic master plan provides a roadmap to ensuring that Petaluma's public safety facilities are well-positioned and equipped to meet the community's evolving facility needs for the next 50 years.

The plan was developed through a comprehensive and collaborative process between the consultants and staff from the City Manager's Office, the Department of Public Works and Utilities, and the Police and Fire Departments. The planning process began with a goal-setting

charette in November 2022 among stakeholders to develop a program outlining current and future public safety requirements for spaces, functions, and capacities. The programming was then reconciled to identify opportunities for operational efficiency and resource optimization, with attention focused on space utilization, workflow, and resource allocation.

With the space needs for fire, police, and emergency operations established, the next step was to evaluate potential sites to ensure proper fit, constraints, and feasibility. Preliminary capital budget estimates were developed considering cost escalation and long-range projections to determine the plan's financial implications.

In June 2023, Laura Blake Architect and MW Studios delivered a draft report of findings and recommendations. The consultants recommended a tiered plan of immediate, short-range, and long-range phases – with program, location, and funding considerations provided for all phases.

The immediate phase includes renovations to the police station, and seismic and bathroom improvements to Fire Station 1. The short-range phase includes a new fire station and emergency operations center, as well as a full renovation of Fire Station 1. The long-term phase includes construction of a new police station and renovation or replacement of Fire Stations 2 and 3.

Having discussed the strategic master plan's recommendations closely with the consultants, staff is providing the draft executive summary and presentation materials to the City Council.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on June 19, 2023, which was a publicly noticed meeting.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

This item directly relates to the Public Safety Facilities top ten priority item under the goal "A Safe Community That Thrives."

CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Climate impact is not directly evaluated in the public safety facilities strategic master plan. However, sustainability and climate concerns will be considered during the entitlement and design stages of facility construction as staff works to implement the plan, with the intention of installing and maintaining City infrastructure that is safe, functional, and sustainable and serves the needs of our residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is not a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) in that receiving a presentation does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not, within this project, have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the

environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and because the action constitutes organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

While this action, in and of itself, does not have a direct financial impact, the associated work identified in the Public Safety Facilities Strategic Master Plan will have significant budget impacts that will need to be considered when reviewing upcoming budgets.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Executive Summary
2. Presentation