



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**November 13, 2019**

***Montebello City Council Unanimously Votes to Place a Public Safety and City Services Measure on the March 2020 Ballot***

**Montebello, CA** – The City Council voted today to place a three-quarter-cent sales tax measure on the March 2020 ballot to help preserve public safety, city services, and community programs. The move was a response to the City’s growing need to create a long-term financial stability, one that is locally funded and optimally beneficial for Montebello residents.

If approved by the voters, this local funding would:

- Maintain fire and paramedic services
- Preserve public safety, police protection, anti-gang efforts and neighborhood patrols
- Keep parks and other neighborhood public areas safe and clean
- Fix streets and potholes, and help prevent sinkholes
- Maintaining programs and services for seniors
- Support summer and after-school programs that keep youth out of trouble
- Attract and retain local business
- Require public disclosure of spending

The proposed local funding measure would require strict accountability, including a Transparency and Accountability Committee to ensure all funds are spent as required by law. All funds would be used to benefit Montebello residents only – no funds could be taken by the State, County or other cities. And all funds are subject to mandatory annual independent audit and reports to the community.

Without additional funding, the City may be forced to make deeper cuts to basic services such as police and fire protection, paramedics, senior services, youth programs.

Pico Rivera, Lynwood, South Gate, Downey, Pasadena, Huntington Park and other neighboring cities have already passed a sales tax and are benefiting from locally-controlled revenue. And the cities of Whittier, Paramount, Norwalk, Lakewood, and Bellflower are also currently considering a similar sales tax to protect essential city services.

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