



## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**From: Grant Yates, City Manager**

**Prepared by: Nicole Dailey, Assistant to the City Manager**

**Date: July 9, 2019**

**Subject: Peer Review of Police Services Joint Powers Authority Feasibility Study**

### **Recommendation**

Approve the City's participation in a Peer Review of the Police Services Joint Powers Authority Feasibility Study and authorize the City Manager to enter into a participation/cost sharing agreement with Citygate Associates, LLC at an estimated amount of \$15,000, in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

### **Background**

The City of Lake Elsinore contracts with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. While the Sheriff's Department provides high-quality public safety services to the City and many of our surrounding communities, the cost for contracting these services has increased dramatically by more than 37% over the last ten years. These contract rates are expected to continue to increase year after year. Based on these unsustainable increases and projections, the City has been working with other contract cities to explore ways to address these rising contract rates.

At a Mayors' Summit on Public Safety hosted by the City of Temecula in 2015, participating contract cities discussed the concept of forming a joint power authority (JPA) as an alternative to save on public costs.

In February 2016, the City Council approved the City of Lake Elsinore's participation in the study to evaluate the feasibility of creating a Police Services JPA to manage services of several cities that currently contract with the Sheriff's Department. In addition to the City of Lake Elsinore, the other participating cities included Coachella, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, and Wildomar.

On April 11, 2017, Matrix presented findings which indicated that a JPA could offer operational and cost efficiencies based upon assumptions included in that study. During this meeting, staff indicated that next logical step would be to conduct a peer review study, whereby another highly qualified consultant would independently validate the assumptions and findings in the initial study. The City Council directed staff to take the next steps to conduct this peer review in

August 2017. The cities of Moreno Valley, San Jacinto, Wildomar, Jurupa Valley and Temecula also supported moving forward with a peer review process.

Previously, the City Council designated a Public Safety Subcommittee to remain fully informed on the progress of this project and continues to proactively explore all opportunities related to improving public safety services and/or reducing the City's costs. The Public Safety Subcommittee has been very involved in reviewing services and costs associated with all related contract services.

### **Discussion**

On September 10, 2018, a Request for Proposals was released to solicit proposals to conduct this peer review. After reviewing proposals, staff members representing all participating cities recommended award of a consulting contract to Citygate Associates, LLC, for an estimated amount of \$15,000 per city. In addition to validating findings in the initial study, the report will consider impacts associated with revising the study to address the cities listed above.

As noted in the Final Report on the JPA Feasibility Study, extensive data collection from various sources was used to develop the conclusions and recommendations. This data included information provided by each participating city, the Sheriff's Department, compensation surveys from various law enforcement agencies, data related to start-up costs, and retirement options.

With recent changes in the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the City is very encouraged by newly elected Sheriff Bianco's pledge to work in partnership with cities that contract for law enforcement services. Particularly, we are grateful for his willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue with the City and for his demonstrated leadership to seek reductions to contract service cost.

However, the City still has an obligation to continually explore all opportunities to ensure the highest levels of service while also remaining fiscally responsible in the short and long-term. This peer review and related feasibility study will provide value to the City by verifying and offering additional information to assist in future contract negotiations related to law enforcement services.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funds have been allocated in the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 19/20 for an estimated amount of \$15,000 to be paid to the City of San Jacinto for the City of Lake Elsinore's equal share of cost to contract with Citygate Associates, LLC.

### **Exhibits**

A – Proposal from Citygate Associates, LLC