

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: January 9, 2025

PREPARED BY: Daniel Hurtado, Public Safety Analyst  
Chris Escobedo, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALM DESERT AND THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Law Enforcement Services Agreement between the City of Palm Desert and the County of Riverside to reflect the addition of six sworn officers in two phases, consistent with the City Council-approved Measure G - Five-Year Spending Plan.
2. Authorize the City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the Agreement.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement and any documents necessary to effectuate and implement actions taken herewith

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The City of Palm Desert contracts exclusively with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to provide municipal police protection within the corporate limits of the City. The Sheriff's Department serves as the sole provider of general and specialized law enforcement services, ensuring public safety, crime prevention, and emergency response across the community. This long-standing partnership allows the City to benefit from the expertise, resources, and specialized units of the Sheriff's Department while maintaining a high standard of public safety tailored to the City's needs.

On August 24, 2023, the City Council approved an Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the City of Palm Desert and the County of Riverside, Riverside County Sheriff's Department for a three-year term from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

On June 13, 2024, the Palm Desert City Council approved placing Measure G, a one-cent sales tax, on the November 5, 2024, ballot. Measure G was subsequently approved. To ensure the transparent and strategic use of Measure G funds, the City Council adopted a Five-Year Spending Plan during its November 14, 2024, meeting. The Spending Plan prioritizes critical public safety investments, including the phased addition of six sworn officers under the City's Law Enforcement Agreement with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The table below details the number of contracted officers from FY 2019/20 to FY 2025/26, highlighting key staffing changes over this period. In FY 2019/20, daily patrol hours were reduced from 171.4 to 144 hours, accompanied by a corresponding reduction in personnel. Over the following years, the City implemented incremental adjustments, including the introduction of an

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Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system in FY 2022/23, which enhanced law enforcement's ability to cover a broader area with fewer resources. With the support of Measure G funding, the City plans to increase patrol hours to 180 per day. Additionally, deputies will transition to 12-hour shifts, further improving operational efficiency and coverage.

	Positions	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26*	Staffing
Patrol Hours	General Law Enforcement (Patrol:SUP-B)	171.4	144	144	144	144	144	180	
	Patrol FTE	36	28	28	28	28	28	35	
	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>								
	Dedicated Sheriff's Lieutenant	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Dedicated Sheriff's Sergeant - Traffic/Motor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Dedicated Sheriff's Sergeant - BDT	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Dedicated Sheriff's Sergeant-Admin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Traffic Team (commercial enforcement:SDP-B)	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	
	Dedicated Motorcycle Enforcement (SDC-B)	6	4	4	4	4	4	6	2 Motors Add
	Special Enforcement Team (SDC-B)	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	1 Deputy Add
	Business District Team (SDC-B)	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	
	Dedicated School Resource Officer (UDP-B)	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	
	Burglary Suppression (SDC-B)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
	CVVCGTF Deputy (UDC)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	CVNTF Deputy (UDC)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Community Service Officer II	8	11	11	11	11	11	11	
	Deputy Sheriff K-9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New Technology	ALPR Cameras		0	0	49	64	20	25	158 Cameras
Total Positions		68.69	57.69	58.69	59.69	59.69	59.69	69.69	
Contract Rate Increase		5%	6%	4%	1.89%	2.50%	4.5%		4% Average

Reductions  
 Additions  
 \*Additions Pending Results of Sales Tax Measure (Could enact FY24-25 following measure passage).

The six additional officers will be incorporated as follows:

Phase 1: Effective January 1, 2025

- One (1) Patrol Deputy
- Two (2) Motorcycle Enforcement Officers (including the acquisition of two motorcycles)

Phase 2: Effective July 1, 2025

- Two (2) Patrol Deputies
- One (1) Special Enforcement Team (SET) Officer

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has indicated they can fill Phase 1 as early as January 1, 2025, but need additional time to successfully fill the Phase 2 positions, which will take place in Fiscal Year 2025-26. Once the two phases are filled, the City's staffing levels will be as follows and outlined in the table above:

Average Patrol Services

- 180 supported hours per day (equivalent to 35 Deputy Sheriff positions at 1,884 annual productive hours per position).

Non-Dedicated Positions

- One (1) Deputy Sheriff Position (Commercial Enforcement) – Supported (Cove Communities Shared Position)
- Two (2) Deputy Sheriff Positions (Burglary Suppression) – Supported

**Dedicated Positions**

- One (1) Sheriff Lieutenant Position
- Two (2) Sheriff’s Sergeant Positions (Business District Team and Traffic Team)
- Six (6) Deputy Sheriff positions (Motor Officers) – Supported
- Four (4) Deputy Sheriff Positions Special Enforcement Team (SET) – Supported
- Four (4) Deputy Sheriff Positions Business District – Supported
- Two (2) Deputy Sheriff Positions (School Resource Officers) – Unsupported
- One (1) Deputy Sheriff Position (Violent Crime Task Force)
- One (1) Deputy Sheriff Position (Coachella Valley Narcotics Task Force)
- Eleven (11) Community Service Officer II positions

City staff has worked in conjunction with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department. The City’s Dedicated Lieutenant has reviewed and supported staff’s recommendation.

**Legal Review:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s Office.

**Strategic Plan:**

This amendment supports the Palm Desert Strategic Plan, particularly Priority 1: Enhance the Delivery of Public Safety Services. It builds on the City's commitment to expand law enforcement resources in response to community growth, safety concerns, and identified priorities.

**Appointed Body Recommendation:**

The Public Safety Committee has recognized the critical need for increased patrols within the City to address growing traffic issues and rising crime rates. During the December 10, 2024, meeting, the committee unanimously endorsed the recommendation to add additional officers, emphasizing the importance of strengthening public safety and proactively addressing these pressing concerns.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The approved FY 2024-25 Annual Budget includes approximately \$23.5M for police services in the City of Palm Desert, reflecting a contract rate increase from the previous year as well as the increase associated with Measure G approval. Contract rates are adjusted annually based on the rates approved by the Board of Supervisors. The annual contract increases are reflected below:

FISCAL YEAR	CONTRACT RATE INCREASE	TOTAL COST
FY 2022/23	1.63%	\$ 20.4 million
FY 2023/24	2.45%	\$ 21.6 million
FY 2024/25	Released in April 2025	\$ 23.4 million*

*\*Budget is based on projections from the county.*

Phase 1 of the additional officers will begin in FY 2024-25 at a total annual cost of \$1.3 million. Phase 2, scheduled for FY 2025-26, will be included in the proposed FY 2025-26 Annual Budget.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. First Amendment to the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services
2. Approved Law Enforcement Contract C46170
3. Contract Law Enforcement Rates FY 2023-2024