CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE __

This ballot measure extends for five years the City of San Marino’s existing Public Safety Tax for paramedic, police and fire protection services. The measure also approves an increase in the City’s appropriations limit to enable the City to expend the revenues generated by the Tax for the first four years, in compliance with state law. Measure __ was placed on the ballot by a unanimous vote of the City Council.

The Public Safety Tax is a tax on each parcel of real property in the City and is authorized under the authority of Section 4 of Article XIII-A of the California Constitution. As a special tax, the proceeds can only be used for paramedic, police and fire protection services. The City may not use the funds for any other purpose.

Approval of the measure will extend the Public Safety Tax for a period of five years. The tax will expire at that time unless extended again by the voters. Previous extensions of the Public Safety Tax have been for four years. The City Council proposes that this extension be for five years because, in the future, the City’s General Municipal Elections will be held in even-numbered years, and this extension will ensure that voters will continue to have the opportunity to consider the tax at the City’s General Municipal Elections as required by state law.

The ordinance contains maximum tax rates for each year that can be exceeded only if the increase is approved by the voters. The measure also contains a credit for parcels owned by senior citizens whose income does not exceed levels the City Council can establish from time to time.

As a special tax, the measure requires a two-thirds vote of the persons voting at the election. A “YES” vote on Measure __ extends the existing Public Safety Special Tax and assessment amounts for five years. A “NO” vote would eliminate the Public Safety Special Tax at the end of the current fiscal year.

Stephanie Cao
City Attorney, City of San Marino

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure __. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the elections official’s office at (626) 300-0705 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.