

Public Safety Fact Sheet

Public Safety, which includes police and fire services, is a top priority in the City of Chula Vista. Chula Vista, the second largest city in San Diego County, has a great community with quality local schools, safe neighborhoods, vibrant economy and beautiful surroundings.

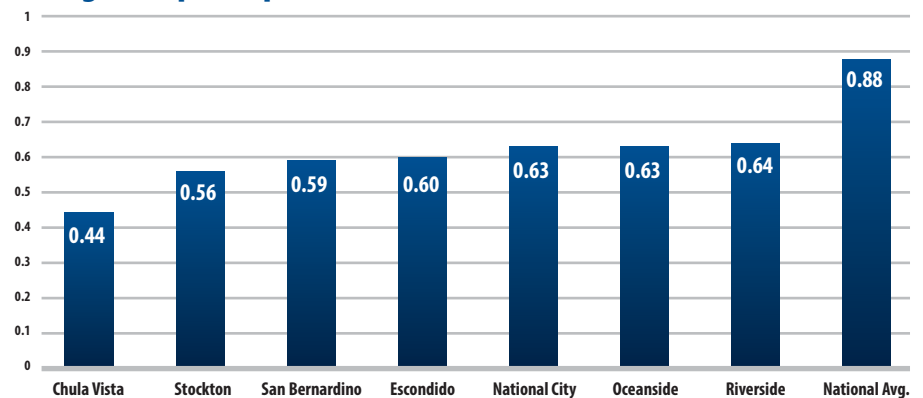
However, like many cities throughout the country, Chula Vista is struggling to properly fund and maintain public safety staffing. The City allocates 67 percent of discretionary revenues to Police and Fire services combined. However, staffing levels for the police and fire departments are below regional, state, and national averages.

Public Safety by the Numbers

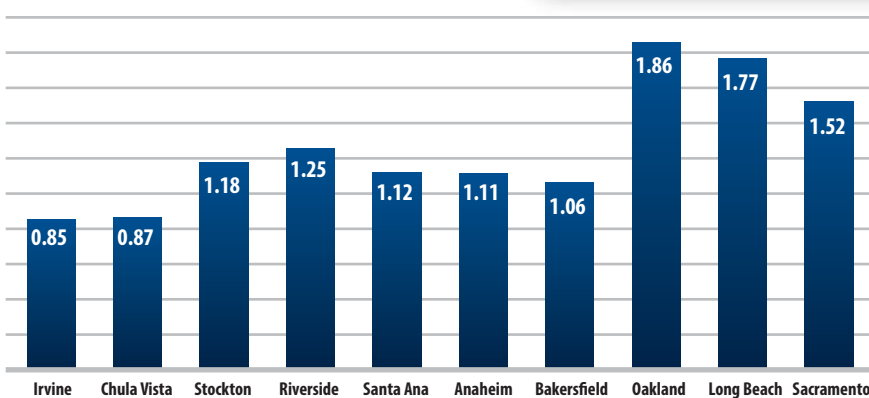
At the direction of the City Council, staff reviewed revenue options to address the need for additional public safety staffing. Those options included sales tax, property tax, Public Safety Community Facilities District, Public Safety Fees and Fee Increases, and Transient Occupancy Tax.



Firefighters per Capita



Police Officers per 1,000 Population



Input was provided at the Public Safety Advisory Committee as well as in community presentations; through a scientific, public opinion survey; and, at City Council meetings on September 26, 2017, December 19, 2017 and February 13, 2018. Following these meetings, public input, and reports from the Police and Fire Departments, the City Council approved placing a half-cent sales tax on the June 2018 ballot to fund public safety staffing and services.

A Phased Plan for Staffing Improvements

The City Council also has approved the *Intended Public Safety Expenditure Plan* (Plan). The Plan identifies two phases to address the staffing shortage in public safety. Phase I outlines the most critical needs identified by the Police and Fire Departments for the next 10 years.

- **Chula Vista Police Department** – In Phase I, 43 police department positions will be filled. The sworn positions include 29 officers, agents and sergeants. Phase I also includes hiring 14 civilian positions including dispatchers, community service officers, background investigators, and facilities and systems managers.
- **Chula Vista Fire Department** – In Phase I, 36 fire department positions will be filled which includes a deputy chief, fire captains, firefighter/paramedics, firefighters, and a public education specialist.

Although addressing these needs does not solve the staffing crisis entirely, it does allow the departments to significantly improve service levels and response times.

Phase I public safety critical needs could be funded over a ten-year period with \$17 million in annual funding. A half-cent sales tax measure which would generate approximately \$17 million per year.

Phase II public safety critical needs could move forward as the City's economic base improves and major transformational projects begin moving forward such as the Bayfront and University development projects.



Public Involvement and Oversight

The City Manager formed the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) in August 2017. The committee includes Chula Vista residents, business owners, community leaders and others. The committee has worked with staff liaisons from Fire, Police, Administration and Finance Departments to provide public input that was used to develop the Public Safety Staffing reports and recommendations for City Council consideration. Reports, presentations, and other information are available for public review at www.chulavistaca.gov/publicsafety.

The half-cent sales tax measure includes strict accountability provisions with annual audits and an independent citizens' oversight committee to ensure that all funds are spent appropriately. The half-cent sales tax is considered a general tax and can be used for any lawful municipal purpose. All funds raised by a local funding measure would stay in Chula Vista under local control and could not be redirected to other government entities.

