



Resolution in Support of the Public Safety Sales Tax Initiative

WHEREAS, On April 5th, 2011 the Citizens of Blue Springs, Missouri will vote on the adoption of a dedicated ½ cent sales tax for Public Safety purposes, and

WHEREAS, a citizen appointed Advisory Board has recommended that a dedicated sales tax is needed for the City and without it critical capital and operating needs will not be met without substantial reductions to other City maintenance programs, such as roads, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Blue Springs Economic Development Corporation is to promote business development and investment, leading to the creation of jobs, and supporting economic development in the City of Blue Springs, Missouri, and

WHEREAS, a strong, healthy and responsive Police Department is vital to business success, community security, and

WHEREAS, the recommended proposal on the ballot includes funding to address a federally, unfunded mandate to replace the existing public safety radio system, new public safety personnel in the areas of patrol, street crimes , detention, evidence and property, animal control, and

WHEREAS, the current public safety radio system is over 20 years old, and

WHEREAS, funding to renovate and expand our public safety facilities is also included to help alleviate crowding issues, provide new dispatch space, build temporary holding facilities for animal control, and address ADA issues, and

WHEREAS, the ½ sales tax rate would take the existing sales tax rate from 7.35% to 7.85% which is still very competitive with our surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the proposal is to provide effective communications equipment to increase our coverage areas, allow officers to communicate with other emergency responders throughout the metro area, lower response times, and increase the visibility of police officers in neighborhoods and retail areas, and

WHEREAS, if passed, the tax will go into effect on October 1st, 2011. The tax will not “sunset” or expire, due to the additional personnel and operating costs that are being added as well as the fact that this will allow the City to replace technology as it changes in the next 20 years and help add additional public safety personnel and facilities as the City continues to grow, now;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED on this 16th day of February, 2011, that the Blue Springs Blue Springs Economic Development Board of Directors supports the proposed Public Safety Sales Tax.

2011 Chairman of the Board, Lisa Franklin:

2011 President, Brien Starner: