

PROPERTY TAX INCREASE



Aug 24, 2023

Herriman City Increases Law Enforcement Property Tax

The Herriman City Council voted 5-0 to increase property tax revenue for the **Herriman City Safety Enforcement Area [HCSEA]** by 12.2% at a Truth-in-Taxation public hearing Tuesday night. The HCSEA funds Herriman Police Department services. The Council provided public notice in June of a proposed increase of up to 15%, and after reviewing the analysis and considering public feedback, it decided 12.2% was the appropriate amount.

The other two City-controlled entities that levy property taxes, Herriman City, and the Herriman City Fire Service Area, had no change.

The increase primarily will offset rising costs due to inflation and average police officer salaries. In Utah, property tax revenue automatically increases yearly as new property is developed, but there is no built-in mechanism for offsetting inflation or market changes. The City Council directed that new growth revenue will pay for new services (i.e., additional officers), while adjustments to the property tax rate will exclusively offset inflationary and market costs. [This is exactly what will happen to Bluffdale's new Police & Fire Protection Fund.]

With inflationary costs and market changes considered in the increase, **the City will establish a law enforcement fleet replacement fund** to help protect against unpredictable volatility in the automotive industry. **[Does this mean they're going to create yet another, fourth taxing fund? If three aren't good enough, maybe four will finally be sufficient. Grab a sack lunch and watch.]** The police department may now also restore its mental health specialist staff position and hire one new police officer.

Herriman's finance structure separates public safety funding from general City operations. Paired with offsetting inflationary and market pressures, the HCSEA increase is also meant to reduce the need to pay for law enforcement costs from the City's general fund, allowing the City to use those funds for other City projects such as roadway improvement.

Tuesday's vote was the first time the Herriman City Council raised property taxes since the City was incorporated in 1999 **[but the first time in just less than 5 years since the Police Department's creation, due to creating a separate fund]**. The three City-controlled entities combined comprise approximately 25.5% of the property tax bill paid by Herriman residents and businesses. **[Herriman's total combined property tax rate was 290% of Bluffdale City's total property tax rate for 2023. That was almost triple Bluffdale City's city-controlled property tax burden.]**

Video of the public hearing can be seen [at this link](#).

<https://www.herriman.org/blog/property-tax-increase-2#:~:text=Herriman%20City%20Increases%20Law%20Enforcement,Taxation%20public%20hearing%20Tuesday%20night>

Herriman Police Department Marks One-Year Anniversary

Oct 1, 2019

BY MATT RASCON, KSL TV / KSLTV.com

HERRIMAN, Utah – Monday marked one year since the Herriman Police Department was officially organized in one of the fastest growing cities in the state and the nation.

“Really, I was very happy at the agency I left,” said officer Jared Goulding at the start of another overnight patrol shift. “I just recognized the opportunity here: seeing a department start from the ground up. Wanted to be a part of that.”

One year later, Goulding said, “it’s probably one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

The young police department recognized its first year of protecting and serving the ever-growing city of Herriman.

“In this last year, we’ve probably grown by four or 5,000 people, and it’s hard if you’re not self-providing to meet those demands,” Herriman City Police Chief Troy Carr said. “I think it’s a dream of every aspiring chief that not only do I get to be police chief of a department, but to create a department.”

Carr has nearly 30 years of experience in law enforcement and was serving as a deputy chief with the Unified Police Department when he was hired to lead and organize the new department.

“We did it in 120 days, which is a feat in and of itself,” Carr said. “It seems like it was just yesterday.”

In one year, the department has sworn in 37 members with zero turnover, including SWAT officers, a K9 unit, and, most recently, an animal services unit that was created in July.

Carr said it’s made all the difference in the neighborhoods they serve.

“When our citizens see that name on that police truck, they know that they own that police department, right? They have ownership in what’s happening,” he said. “So they started to call the police.”

In fact, Carr said **they’ve seen a 100% jump in their call volume from the time the Unified Police Department was overseeing the city.**

It’s easy to see that growth is in the forecast for the police department and the city. The police department currently occupies the same offices at City Hall where UPD used to work. Carr expects they’ll soon outgrow that space, and he said there’s a nearby lot where the new police station will likely be built.

“This whole area down through here is just exploding right now,” Goulding said, gesturing to another new neighborhood under construction. “It seems like every time you come back on shift, there are new buildings that have been framed up or new homes.”

More homes and more businesses mean more opportunities to serve for officers like Goulding,

“It’s something I’ve never experienced, and it’s awesome,” he said. “I love working here.”

<https://ksltv.com/422544/herriman-police-department-marks-one-year-anniversary/>