

PUBLIC SAFETY TAX ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety Tax Advisory Board was established by Albuquerque City Council Bill No. C/S 0-19-76 which revised the Ordinance of Albuquerque. The Public Safety Tax Advisory Board (Board) was approved by the Albuquerque City Council almost twenty years ago. The Board is comprised of five members, as follows: one member with experience or financial expertise in crime prevention and intervention appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council, one member with experience or financial expertise in law enforcement appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council, one member with experience or financial expertise in emergency medical services appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council, and two at large members appointed by the City Council. The Board shall elect a chair from its members. The term of office shall be for three years. Each member may serve a maximum of two terms.

The current Board is comprised of: Rodney E. Bowe, Crime Prevention and Intervention; Deborah L. Kuidis, Law Enforcement; Gene L. Gallegos, Emergency Medical Service; Kenneth J. Pascoe, At Large; Bob Martinez, At Large (Chair).

The Duties of the Board shall be to: (1) review the use of the public safety tax revenues for the previous year, (2) review the distribution of revenues to the funded City departments and recommend changes, if necessary, to the percentages based on community conditions, (3) provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council by January 1 for the proposed use of public safety tax revenues for the upcoming fiscal year.

FINDINGS

In late 2024 all Board positions were fully appointed and filled. The Board has been able to review several reports from the three funded departments, Police / Prisoner Transport, Fire and Rescue, and Family and Community Services. The Board has met with representatives from the three funded department as well as from the Albuquerque Community Safety department at its meeting in September 2024. The Board received a considerable amount of information from each department on the use of the public safety tax funds and their performance accomplishments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the fact that the Board has only been fully operational for a few months, it is not prepared to make any recommendations to change the distribution of funds. The Board has had several meetings over the past several months and obtained and reviewed information on how the funds have been allocated for several fiscal years. The amount of information received by the Board to digest in such a short period of time has been informative and overwhelming. Thus, it is difficult to make educated and substantive suggested changes to the distribution of funds or to add or remove departments from receiving funds. Additionally, the goal of the Board is to provide

recommendations that are realistic and based on empirical performance data. The Board is not prepared to make a comprehensive recommendation at this time for fiscal year 2026.

Furthermore, the Board believes that the departments receiving public safety tax revenues are making a positive impact on the areas they serve.

The Board, however, recommends that the City Council and the Administration should consider a comprehensive review of the ordinance and the underlying legislation that created the public safety tax and the need for it. As an example, the current ordinance does not provide for public safety tax revenues to support the work of the Albuquerque Community Safety Department. It is further recommended that the Board be provided with the opportunity to continue to review the work of the departments and to receive periodic performance reports from the departments receiving public safety tax revenues with the objective of providing a more comprehensive report to the City Council and the Administration in the next several months.

This Report is respectfully submitted to the Administration and City Council of Albuquerque by the Public Safety Tax Advisory Board.

The Board concurs with the above recommendations.



Bob Martin, Chair