

**Resolution
of the
City of Minneapolis
(2/9/05)**

By Ostrow

Designating public safety as the top legislative priority for the 2005 legislative session and supporting legislative authorization for alternative revenue sources to be dedicated exclusively to public safety funding.

Whereas, public safety is the top priority of the City of Minneapolis and the highest obligation of government at all levels; and

Whereas, reductions in state and federal assistance to local law enforcement have reduced significantly the resources available to the City of Minneapolis for police, fire, criminal prosecution and emergency preparedness, including the loss of 120 police officers off the streets of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the City's public safety services provide a regional benefit to approximately 250,000 metropolitan residents each day who require and rely upon effective public safety services; and

Whereas, the City Council has reallocated resources from other priorities to maximize funding for public safety which will represent 60% of general purpose revenues by 2010; and

Whereas, the pressures on the City's general fund and property tax will continually worsen over the next five years and will result by the year 2009 in an unacceptable 14 million dollar reduction in service level funding for core public safety services not including a very significant additional service level reduction resulting from increasing pension debt obligations; and

Whereas, additional property tax levy increases beyond the current 8% property tax levy policy would create an unreasonable and unacceptable burden on Minneapolis residents and property owners;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis' top legislative priority for the 2005 legislative session is an increase in resources for public safety.

Be It Further Resolved that the City reaffirms its support for full funding of the current local government aid formula which would provide significant additional funding to the City of Minneapolis and cities throughout the State.

Be It Further Resolved that the City supports legislation relieving the City of Minneapolis from a part or all of the Convention Center debt and allowing the use of some or all of its existing sales tax currently dedicated to the Convention Center for general fund purposes including public safety.

Be It Further Resolved that absent sufficient additional funding of LGA or relief from the Convention Center debt, the City supports a sales tax of (0.5%) one half percent on all transactions currently subject to the state sales tax to be dedicated exclusively to the following purposes:

- a. Police, including the City's pension obligations to retired police officers.
- b. Fire, including the City's pension obligations to retired fire personnel.
- c. City Attorney's Criminal Division.
- d. Emergency Communications.
- e. Emergency Preparedness.

This tax will raise approximately \$27 million per year and will be subject to reauthorization once every ten years.

Be It Further Resolved that absent additional funding of LGA or relief from the Convention Center debt and in the alternative to a sales tax of (0.5%) one half percent, the City supports a parking tax or surcharge which combined with a smaller dedicated sales tax, increase in local government aid or relief from the Convention Center debt, raises an amount equal or greater than a one-half percent (0.5%) sales tax for public safety purposes.

Be It Further Resolved that the City opposes any legislation penalizing the City of Minneapolis or any other city for adopting local option sales or parking taxes with an offset in local government aid.

Be It Further Resolved that the City supports a local referendum requirement for the adoption of a local option sales tax dedicated to public safety so that the citizens of Minneapolis can have the opportunity to decide whether to provide increased revenues for the public safety of its citizens, visitors and businesses.