

City of Merced

Community Conversation on Public Safety Needs



What is the Issue?

- ▶ Merced has significant law enforcement and fire safety needs.
- ▶ In a Fall 2017 Merced Community Survey, 62% of respondents believe that crime has increased over the last few years.
- ▶ Our priority is to continue to make our city a safe and desirable place to live.



Police Public Safety Services



Police Public Safety

- ▶ We must give our local police officers the Emergency Operations facilities and 911 technology they need to keep our community safe.
- ▶ Our key priorities are:
 - ▶ Retaining qualified police officers
 - ▶ Preventing gang activity in the City
 - ▶ Protecting and maintaining 9-1-1 police response times
 - ▶ Maintaining neighborhood-based policing



Fire Safety Services



Fire Public Safety

- ▶ National best practice standards recommend 7 fire stations for a community of our size. Merced only has 5 fire stations.
 - ▶ The American Heart Association says brain deterioration starts four to six minutes after a person stops breathing, but our average 9-1-1 response times are more than 6 minutes.
 - ▶ Merced's emergency responders act on 22,000 calls per year.
 - ▶ Seconds count when you have an emergency -- our residents need to receive urgent medical care quickly.



Merced's Fire Response Times Must Improve

- ▶ Independent experts recently determined that Merced Fire's call processing performance is 40% slower than professional best practice standards
 - ▶ The Communication Center is chronically understaffed and not equipped to receive the roughly 500,000 calls received annually
 - ▶ Not all of the areas in the City are receiving recommended emergency response times in compliance with recommended practices
 - ▶ Fire service demands are projected to increase 5-10 percent annually over the next 13 years.
 - ▶ City emergency communications must improve to protect residents' safety



Summary of Priorities

- ▶ We want to hear from YOU.
- ▶ Please complete and return the Community Feedback Form
 - ▶ Or, complete online at: www.cityofmerced.org



What's the Next Step?

- ▶ Do you know of other individuals or organizations that should receive this information?
- ▶ All responses will be considered as we develop strategies to address these public safety needs.
- ▶ We will continue to keep the community informed about these safety issues and others facing the City

