

## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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**DATE:** December 2, 2014

**TITLE:** Creating Special Tax Area Zone 15 (Pierson Plaza) within the Desert Hot Springs Special Public Safety Tax Area

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**Reviewed by:** Alexander P. Meyerhoff, AICP, Community Development Director

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### RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Open the public testimony period;
- 2) Staff Report;
- 3) Applicant comments;
- 4) Take public testimony;
- 5) Questions of Staff;
- 6) Close the public testimony period;
- 7) City Council discussion;
- 8) Hold the election;
- 9) Canvass the election; and
- 10) Adopt an Ordinance establishing a Special Public Safety Tax Area Zone 15 (Pierson Plaza).

### DISCUSSION

On October 21, 2014, the City Council adopted a Resolution No. 2014-045, a Resolution Creating Special Tax Area Zone 15 (Pierson Plaza) within the Desert Hot Springs Special Public Safety Tax Area.

The Public Safety Tax Area Zone 15 (Pierson Plaza) is currently comprised of one parcel, commonly referred to as Pierson Plaza. This parcel, Assessor's Parcel Number 663-290-003, is approximately 9.16 acres. The City has previously approved the subdivision of this parcel into 5 commercial parcels totaling 6.81 acres. This property is located north of Buena Vista, south of Pierson Boulevard, east of Via Loreto and west of Cholla Drive, within the City of Desert Hot Springs.

It is anticipated that the Special Taxes levied by the District will provide funding for services and incidental expenses in connection with said services.

It is of critical importance to the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs that residents of the City receive high quality police and fire protection services. In carefully reviewing the City's budget and revenue projections with the Police and Fire Departments, it has become clear to City staff that the City budget does not contain adequate funding to ensure the continued delivery of adequate high quality public safety services unless additional revenues are obtained.

It is the purpose and intent of this Ordinance to generate additional funds to pay for police and fire protection services by authorizing the levy of a tax on improved parcels of real property on the secured property tax roll of Riverside County that are within Zone 15 of the Desert Hot Springs Special Public Safety Tax Area (the "Zone"). The voters of Zone 15 recognize the importance of adequate public safety services to the entire Desert Hot Springs community and approve this tax to ensure that those services will be maintained and improved citywide.

The revenues raised by this tax are to be used solely for the purposes of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining police and fire protection equipment or apparatus, for paying the salaries and benefits of police and fire protection personnel, and for such other police and fire protection service expenses as are deemed necessary for the benefit of the residents of Zone 15.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The applicant has paid a deposit of \$5,000, which covers the costs of establishing the zone. The property owner is responsible for all costs and payment of associated levy amounts applied to the annual tax roll for police and fire maintenance services.

**EXHIBIT(S)**

- 1) Ordinance Establishing a Special Public Safety Tax
- 2) Boundary Map
- 3) Letter from the City Clerk attesting no registered voters
- 4) Certificate Declaring Election Results
- 5) Council Properties Map