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Clackamas County
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Cindy Becker, County Administration Project Coordinator
RE: Public Safety Levy Referral Update
DATE: September 9, 2026

REQUEST: Staff are requesting Board direction on creating internal and external ad-hoc committees for the Public Safety Levy referral.

BACKGROUND:

During the July 28, 2026, Issues meeting Praxis Consulting discussed the following items:

- Preliminary findings and themes based upon individual interviews with the Board and Sheriff;
 - Clearer messaging
 - Demonstration of value of levy funding
 - Coordination of broader messaging to public (Mayors, Local Police Departments) and private (Business leaders, Chambers) stakeholders
 - Collaboration between Board and Sheriff's office
 - Clarity of roles, specifically who's leading this effort
- Recommended next steps;
 - A clear structure defining roles and responsibilities for the Board, Sheriff's Office, and staff and an opportunity for greater collaboration
 - A detailed timeline and action plan
 - A comprehensive public engagement strategy before and after the levy referral
 - Coordinated communications and education efforts before the vote
 - Refined messaging to help voters connect with the work of the Sheriff's office and understand the value of levy funding
- Levy referral date: The Board decided to pursue a May 2027 ballot referral. They also asked staff to bring back recommendations to convene internal and external ad-hoc committees to work with staff and the Contractor on Levy content, pricing, and messaging. Below are the recommendations:

Internal Committee

Purpose:

- To provide feedback and review of pricing and program options for the Levy
- To discuss communications and engagement strategy/materials

Participants

- 2 Commissioners (TBD)
- Sheriff and CCSO Finance staff
- County Finance staff
- County Admin staff
- Praxis
- PGA and County Counsel staff as needed

Meeting Frequency

- September – December: Every other week as needed

External Committee (Names/Org TBD)

Purpose:

- To provide recommendations on community engagement strategy
- To help “move the message” and liaison with the community

Participants:

- Local Electeds
- Nonprofit Leaders
- Local Business Leaders/Influencers
- Fire and EMS Leaders
- Health Systems Leaders
- Praxis

Meeting Frequency

- December – February: Every three weeks as needed

OPTIONS

- 1) Direct staff to convene both internal and external ad-hoc committees
- 2) Direct staff to convene either the internal or external ad-hoc committees
- 3) Do not convene the internal or external ad-hoc committees

RECOMMENDATION: N/A