



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** February 26, 2013
From: Frank W. Robinson, Town Manager **Item No:** 10
Subject: APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS FOR
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC SAFETY JOINT
POWERS AUTHORITY (JPA) FEASIBILITY STUDY

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Town Council approve a Staff recommendation to participate with the Cities of Hesperia, Adelanto and Victorville in the solicitation of proposals for professional services to conduct a Public Safety Joint Powers Authority (JPA) feasibility study

SUMMARY:

The Town of Apple Valley has contracted with the County of San Bernardino for police services since incorporation in 1988. The County provides Sheriff's personnel, vehicles and equipment for law enforcement services at a service level determined each year by the Town Council. By contracting with the County for these services, the County accepts all liability and costs related to the performance of duties of their employees as indicated in the contract.

In Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the Town Council approved a law enforcement staffing level of 51 sworn and 20 non-sworn County personnel. The County contract amount of \$10,718,888 covers salary and benefits for the 71 County Sheriff's personnel; costs for 29 cars and 7 trucks (all County owned vehicles); radios and dispatch services; and the County Administrative fee (COWCAP). The Town also budgets approximately \$553,251 separately from the County contract for vehicle fuel and maintenance, office supplies, CAL-ID identification system, training and education, and facility maintenance. The Cities of Hesperia, Victorville and Adelanto also contract for police services with similar costs.

Last year the administrative fee for the Sheriff contract was increased from the original 3% to 5%, and the County's Chief Executive Officer is indicating that the County may begin to charge contract cities for services that have not been charged for in the past, for example, helicopter usage. The Town Administration believes there are many benefits to contracting for police services; however, the continual increases in costs are placing enormous pressure on the General Fund Operating Budget. The fact is that County contract salaries, benefits, administrative fees and other operating costs are generally outside the control of the Town.

The driving issue behind the recommendation of this staff report is not the quality or level of police service that has been provided by the County Sheriff, which in our opinion, has been outstanding. Rather, the concern is directly related to the rising administrative fees associated with the County contract. This same concern rests with our neighboring cities.

In response to an initiative of the City of Hesperia to explore the possibility of a regional public safety approach to providing for the safety and welfare of the residents in the Victor Valley, the Cities of Victorville and Adelanto are considering participating in the issuing of an RFP for professional services to conduct a Public Safety Joint Powers Authority (JPA) feasibility study. It is important that the Town of Apple Valley have a seat at the table with any regional effort to study the public safety needs for the Victor Valley. With that in mind, it is Staff's recommendation that Council approve participation in in solicitation of proposals for professional services to conduct a Public Safety Joint Powers Authority (JPA) feasibility study.

FISCAL IMPACT: Undetermined at this time; subject to receipt of solicitation responses to determine actual cost.