

Supervisor John Gioia's Weekly E-Update

February 19, 2010

Supervisor Gioia Supports El Sobrante Community Leaders on Efforts to Enhance Law Enforcement

I'm pleased to support El Sobrante community leaders in their efforts to enhance law enforcement in their neighborhood.

A few months ago, I was asked by many El Sobrante leaders (from the El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council, Chamber of Commerce, and Crime Prevention Committees) to look into the possibility of creating a minimal parcel tax to pay for a designated Resident Sheriff Deputy just for El Sobrante.

Since that time, El Sobrante residents have put a lot of effort into exploring this issue. Last week, the El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council voted unanimously to request the Board of Supervisors to place a measure on the June 8 ballot asking El Sobrante residents whether they want to approve a parcel tax to fund the new Sheriff position. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the request at its March 2 meeting (after 9:30 a.m.).

The proposed tax would be \$38 per year for single-family parcels, and \$76 per year for business parcels. It would automatically end, or "sunset," in five years. The measure needs a two-thirds majority approval to pass.

The new Resident Deputy, a 40 hour per week position, would focus on quality of life issues, including neighborhood watch and crime prevention -- needs identified by residents. The position is in addition to existing sheriff patrols, not a replacement.

When community leaders step forward with an idea to tax themselves for extra service, I support creating the opportunity for all residents to vote on the proposal, especially in these tight budget times.

I'd also like to clarify a "Notice of Public Hearing" letter sent to El Sobrante residents on this matter. In order to insure that the new tax is collected and spent only in El Sobrante, a special zone must be created. Setting up this zone requires a Public Hearing to establish the boundaries. Two-thirds of voters still must approve the tax.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) to check out the El Sobrante Resident Sheriff Deputy page on my website. You can also go <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=2502> Feel free to call 510-374-3231 or email Terrance Cheung in my office for more information at terrance.cheung@bos.cccounty.us