



## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### Overview

As a city that is consistently named one of the safest cities in the country, Santa Clara is committed to promoting a living and working environment that allows for the best quality of life. The City believes that crime prevention and enforcement efforts are integral to creating and maintaining a safe environment for residents and visitors. At the same time, the City recognizes that crime prevention and enforcement efforts alone cannot foster community safety and wellness; education, intervention and prevention efforts on various public safety topics, such as gun violence, gang activity, alcohol and tobacco use, pedestrian, driver and bicycle safety, and driving under the influence, are equally important.

As the State and region continues to experience civil unrest and an unprecedented number of natural and man-made disasters, the City recognizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to public safety. The City is committed to maintaining rapid, All-Hazards 911 response, and providing caring, community-oriented service to protect life, property, and the environment.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to maintain public health and safety, and promote the best quality of life, the City will:

- Support legislation that standardizes policies, training and accountability in the use of police canines to enhance both officer and community safety.
- Support efforts and funding that promotes rapid implementation, enforcement, and prosecution of laws aimed at reducing gun violence.
- Support legislation that toughens penalties for chronic criminals.
- Support efforts that continue to address addiction as a health issue requiring treatment and drug and theft crimes, as well as a stricter stance on repeat offenders, through a new approach to prosecution and sentencing, including but not limited to "wobbler" offenses. A far-reaching approach with the intent to address the negative implications of Assembly Bill 109 (approved by the Legislature in 2011), Proposition 47 (approved by voters in 2014) and Proposition 57 (approved by voters in 2016) balances public safety with fair and proportionate treatment for offenders.
- Support efforts that facilitate the timely and complete implementation of voter-approved public safety initiatives, such as Proposition 36, as well as legislatively approved measures aimed at reducing crime and increasing public safety.

- Support the expansion of the number of crimes where DNA is collected, a list that was limited when some crimes were reclassified from felonies to misdemeanors.
- Support legislation that preserves, or expands, funding levels for public safety programs, services, reimbursement of administrative costs associated with grant implementation, reimbursement for administrative costs incurred by civilian/professional personnel, record keeping and reporting, and equipment, such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants.
- Support initiatives that maintain existing tools/resources available to officers to respond to calls for service, enhance investigation resources, and aid in crime fighting while increasing officer and public safety.
- Support legislation that addresses crime trends and attempts to curb illegal activity, including but not limited to, illegal street racing and sideshow activity, thefts from automobile burglaries, organized retail thefts, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, all of which are growing trends in our region.
- Support efforts to fund the towing of abandoned vehicles, including unoccupied recreational vehicles (RVs).
- Support legislation that identifies new funding sources for fire and law enforcement agencies to promote First Responder wellness and employee training for all classifications of employees in public safety.
- Support legislation that recognizes the importance of a comprehensive risk management approach to emergency preparedness, fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.
- Support legislation that provides funding for emergency preparedness, including community risk reduction strategies like community education programs (e.g., CERT, CPA), staff training, interagency cooperation, and enhanced equipment and technology.
- Support legislation that expands the implementation and testing of emergency alert systems and emergency public information outreach.
- Support legislation that enhances public safety professionals' ability to respond to all types of emergencies and communicate within and across jurisdictions.
- Support efforts to maintain public agencies' ability to provide 911-system ambulance transportation and other emergency medical services.
- Support measures that aim to return revenue generated from the enforcement of crimes back to the originating agency to sustain their efforts.
- Support the local regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAVs), including the right to authorize use of UAVs by public safety agencies and the right to restrict or prohibit UAV use that interferes with, or poses a threat to, emergency operations or public safety.
- Support legislation that aims to assist individuals in crisis, including those who may be experiencing homelessness, victims of human trafficking, domestic violence victims and survivors, and other vulnerable populations.
- Support funding and efforts for public safety resources to implement a holistic approach to supporting the unhoused community and its perceived impact on community safety.
- Support legislation and efforts that recognize the importance of developing a comprehensive preparedness strategy (e.g. mutual aid, unified command, interoperability, cyber disobedience, critical infrastructure, social media, etc.) to respond to civil unrest with input from emergency responders and allied stakeholders for local response.

- Support more training and funding for law enforcement, and non-law enforcement, response to individuals experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues, including de-escalation training.
- Support legislation that promotes third-party communication and translation resources (e.g., sign language and/or foreign language training, document translation, etc.) as well as professional development resources among First Responders to increase the number of multi-lingual professionals and enhance written communication tools to the public.
- Support the inclusion of stipends, reimbursement and/or allocation associated with new legislation that increases data collection and reporting, particularly when there is a need for specialized software or equipment to do so.
- Support legislation and efforts that aim to provide funding and public safety resources that will be used and implemented to ensure safe and successful major events throughout the City.
- Support legislation that allows officers to initiate a vehicle pursuit, and to have the responsibility to terminate the pursuit when the benefits of immediate apprehension are outweighed by the hazards of continuing the pursuit.
- Support legislation and funding that strengthen recruitment and retention of public safety personnel, including workforce housing incentives and other strategies that improve affordability and long-term staffing stability in high-cost regions.
- Monitor the California Police Chiefs Association and California Fire Chiefs' Association positions on legislation and advocate for those that benefit Santa Clara and align with the League of California Cities' position.
- Oppose public safety legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on local agencies for new programs or increased service levels.