

Des Moines Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
April 24, 2024
Levy Lid Lift Discussion

Pro List:

- More police equals a safer community
- Allocation of budget for public safety needs leads to reduced stress and greater focus on issues
- Addressing projected budget shortfalls for 2025
- A passed levy reflects citizens' value for public safety
- Police response will be improved by having more officers
- Prioritizing public safety may attract more residents and businesses to the area
- Establishes a reputation beyond the local community for prioritizing public safety
- Mental health support for officers
- Potential to boost officer retention rates
- Reinforces the value placed on public safety within the community
- Increased LEVEL of service through additional full-time employees (FTEs)
- Ensure safety by placing an emphasis on public safety
- Commitment to transparency: providing clear information to the community about how levy funding will be utilized.

Con list:

- Financial burden on citizens, particularly those with fixed incomes
- Need for clear communication to educate citizens about the value of the proposed increase
- Concerns about anticipated budget deficits, suggesting that passing the levy may only postpone the issue
- Feedback from some community members expressing reluctance to allocate additional funds:
 - "Not one cent more"
 - "Fix the things that are important to me"
- Uncertainty about the reputation of local law enforcement and whether the community desires more officers
- Failure to pass the levy could exacerbate existing public safety needs, falling further behind in addressing them
- Potential for fatigue among officers, impacting their ability to respond effectively
- Difficulty in rectifying problems once they've worsened, akin to trying to put toothpaste back in the tube