

Attendees; Councilman Chuck Owen, Councilman Glenn Allen, Councilman Nick Lavacca, City Administrator Charlie Bush, SWPD Chief Lin Tucker, SWFD Chief Frank Wagner, Finance Director Kelly Kohnken, SWPD Chief Dan McIlraith and City Intern Alaina O'Regan.

Committee Chair, Chuck Owen called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Chief Wagner-we have not had a Public Safety Committee meeting in many years, we need to get back into scheduling meetings.

- Staffing issues at the Fire Department have been critical for some time with the Chief and Assistant Chiefs covering calls.
- SWFD has been increasingly unable to staff up enough to cover the calls.
- Call volume handout attached.
 - It will require \$700,000 to cover the hiring of 4 additional full-time Firefighters/EMT to add another full crew into the rotation.
 - See staffing comparisons in attachment.
- Contributing factors-
 - LEOFF 2 Retirement and ongoing trends toward people just leaving.
 - We are down to 20 trained volunteers, historically we've had 40+ and a waiting list of people wanting to get on the Department.
 - We only have 2 people signed up for the next testing cycle.
- **Councilman Owen** was in favor of whatever approach necessary to fix the issue.
- **Councilman Allen** wants to put any tax/levy increases to the voters.
- **Councilman Lavacca** asked if there was a way to prioritize calls, specifically eliminate the calls that come in that really don't require a full SWFD response. Also, a study on where our money and resources go would be a good tactic to present to voters.
- **Chief Wagner** confirmed that he has the stats to support the need for increased staffing.
- **Councilman Allen** and **Councilman Lavacca** expressed concerns on exceeding the current budget.
- **All-discussion** over the philosophy of explaining our needs.
- **Finance Director Kohnken** presented the contents of her initial analysis on a potential Tax/Levy proposition, see attachment.
 - There are two options.
 1. Utility Tax increase
 2. Levy
 - Recommend taking the 1% increase in the interim.
 - Must be done in a General Election, deadline for that is August 2nd and that absolutely does not allow enough time to prep for this year.
 - **Councilman Allen** we should consider Property Tax vs Utility Tax and who these taxes apply to. Utility Taxes apply to everyone.
 - **Finance Director Kohnken** a lot of our Utility Taxes are a flat fee.
- **Considerations** to take into account.
 - Actual demographics of the City and those affected by increases.
 - Possible exemptions for those in need.

- Growth overrunning infrastructure.
- Any issue taken to the voters must be done in a General Election and timing would require that to be the one in November 2023.

Public Safety Committee recommends moving forward and preparing to present to Council with the numbers and considerations addressed.

Chief Dan McIlraith-discussion on Department structure and the need for an additional supervisor on a dayshift rotation.

- We currently only have Sergeants on night shift and rely on the Lieutenant and Chief to direct supervise/respond to calls during dayshift.
- Dayshift on the weekends does not have a supervisor.
- There are 4 options on the attachment, recommend going with option 1 then move to option 2 as appropriate.
- There would be a cost increase, but it would be minimal.
- Not recommending this until 2023.

Public Safety Committee recommends moving forward.

Chief Lin Tucker-discussion on Strategic Planning and Council/Community engagement.

- Work on the SWPD Strategic plan requires some level of Council and Community input.
- Since COVID we've done very little community engagement other than normal duties and social media. It is necessary and beneficial to all to get back into the community we serve.
- Request council input on conducting meetings within each ward to get the public and Council input we need.
- Examples of input would include goals of Public Safety, Vision, what works and what doesn't, concerns, communication and whatever else comes up.
- An example agenda can be prepared to direct the City directed portion.

Public Safety Committee recommends moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Attachments

1. SWFD call volume information
2. Finance Director presentation
3. Police Supervision Proposal

Public Safety Committee

July 6, 2022

Kelly Kohnken, MBA

Finance Director and City Clerk

1

Fire Need

The Fire Department is consistently understaffed, an additional four full-time Firefighter/EMTs costs approximately \$700,000 a year.

2

Funding Options

1. Utility tax increase
2. Property tax levy lid lift

3

Utility Tax Increase

*City of Sedro-Woolley
Beginning January 2022*

Utility Billing Rates (Monthly Bill- Weekly Pickup)	20 Gallon	32 Gallon	68 Gallon	96 Gallon
Sewer	68.11	68.11	68.11	68.11
Garbage	12.54	23.11	33.50	44.73
Recycling	5.02	5.02	5.02	5.02
Stormwater	12.20	12.20	12.20	12.20
Fuel Charge	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.05
Utility Tax (10.5%)	10.49	11.60	12.69	13.87
BASE TOTAL PER MONTH	110.41	122.09	133.57	145.98
With Optional Yard Waste	123.86	135.54	147.02	159.43
LOW INCOME	20 gallon	32 gallon	68 gallon	96 gallon
Sewer	44.35	44.35	44.35	44.35
Garbage	10.04	18.49	26.80	35.79
Recycling	5.02	5.02	5.02	5.02
Storm water	9.76	9.76	9.76	9.76
Fuel	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.05
Tax (10.5%)	7.48	8.36	9.24	10.18
TOTAL	78.70	88.03	97.22	107.15

Optional Yard Waste \$12.17 plus 10.5% tax=\$13.45

- 2021 City collected: \$805,797
- 2022 through May: \$353,843

Double utility tax to meet need.
Not recommended by City staff.

4

Property Tax

Generally, we think property tax is calculated like this:

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Value} \\ \hline \$1,204,564 \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Levy Rate} \\ \hline 2.3708 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Total Taxes} \\ \hline \$2,855,790 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Because we see this:

David M. Thomas
Assessor
Annette M. DeVoe
Chief Deputy Assessor



SKAGIT COUNTY
Office of the Assessor
Government Building, Room 204
505 North 2nd Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: 360-416-1700
Fax: 360-416-1706
E-Mail: assessor@co.skagit.wa.us

2020 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS AND LEVIES PAYABLE IN 2021			
CITY LEVIES			
	VALUATION	LEVY RATE	TOTAL TAXES
CITY OF SEDRO WOOLLEY			
GENERAL	\$1,204,564,507	2.3708	\$2,855,790
VOTED PER RCW 84.36.301	\$20,659,396	1.4401	\$29,752
TOTAL	\$1,225,223,903		\$2,885,542

Value in thousands (000)

5

How it is Calculated

However, it is actually calculated starting with total taxes (or budgeted levy) the City needs to fund the budget.

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Budgeted Levy} \\ \hline \$2,855,790 \\ \hline \end{array} \div \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Value} \\ \hline \$1,204,564 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Levy Rate} \\ \hline 2.3708 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

2020 Property Tax Assessments and Levies Payable in 2021
Value in thousands (000)

6

1% Annual Increase

- The City can increase the total tax, or budgeted levy, 1% each year by Council approval.

Example: 1% increase from 2021 to 2022.

Budgeted Levy		÷	Value	=	Levy Rate
2021:	\$2,855,790				
1%:	\$28,558		\$1,408,721		2.1007
New construction:	\$70,979				
2022	= \$2,959,239				

1% was not approved for 2022, therefore budgeted levy and levy rate are not actuals.
Value of property is based on actuals

7

1% Annual Increase

- 1% plus new construction does NOT meet the need.

Budgeted Levy	
2021:	\$2,855,790
1%:	\$28,558
New construction:	\$70,979
2022	= \$2,959,239

1% was not approved for 2022, therefore budgeted levy and levy rate are not actuals.

8

Levy Rate

In this example, despite a 1% increase, the **levy rate decreases** from 2.3708 to 2.1007 because property values increase.

2021

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;"> Budgeted Levy \$2,855,790 </div>	÷	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;"> Value \$1,204,564 </div>	=	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;"> Levy Rate 2.3708 </div>
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2022

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;"> Budgeted Levy 2021: \$2,855,790 1%: \$28,558 New construction: \$70,979 2022 = \$2,959,239 </div>	÷	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;"> Value \$1,408,721 </div>	=	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;"> Levy Rate 2.1007 </div>
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9

Levy Lid Lift

- The City can increase the budgeted levy by more than 1%.
- Must be approved by voters in primary or general election.
- Maximum levy rate is 3.6000

H. Statutory maximum calculation					
Only enter fire/RFA rate, library rate, & firefighter pension fund rate for cities annexed to a fire/RFA or library, or has a firefighters pension fund.					
3.600000000000	-	0.000000000000	-	0.000000000000	+ 0.000 = 3.600000000000
District base levy rate		Fire or RFA Rate		Library Rate	Firefighter Pension Fund Statutory Rate Limit
\$1,408,721.472	×	3.600000000000	+	\$1,000	= \$5,071,397.30
A.V. of District		Statutory Rate Limit			Statutory Amount

Based on 2022 property values.

10

Recommendation

We recommend approving the 1% annual increase and banked capacity and
Requesting voter approval for at least \$700,000 to support the Fire Department.

Budgeted Levy Maximum Levy: \$3,063,721 Fire Levy Lid \$700,000 2023 = \$3,413,721	÷	Value \$1,438,660	=	Levy Rate 2.3729
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2023 value and levy rates are estimates.

11

Impact to Homeowner

Total assess value of home is \$361,700.
Estimated increase is \$100 / year.

2022 Property Tax, Assessments, and Fees		
Tax District	Rate	Amount
SKAGIT COUNTY	1.1493	\$428.39
CONSERVATION FUTURES FUND	0.0389	\$14.42
MEDIC 1 SERVICES	0.3993	\$157.02
SEDRO WOOLLEY	2.0927	\$778.40
HOSPITAL DISTRICT 304	0.1177	\$48.65
PORT DISTRICT 2	0.3942	\$148.23
STATE LEVY	2.6759	\$962.77
SCHOOL DISTRICT 101	3.3244	\$1,233.35
Special Assessment and Fees		
SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT		\$5.00
2022 Property Tax, Assessments, and Fees Total:		\$3,775.26

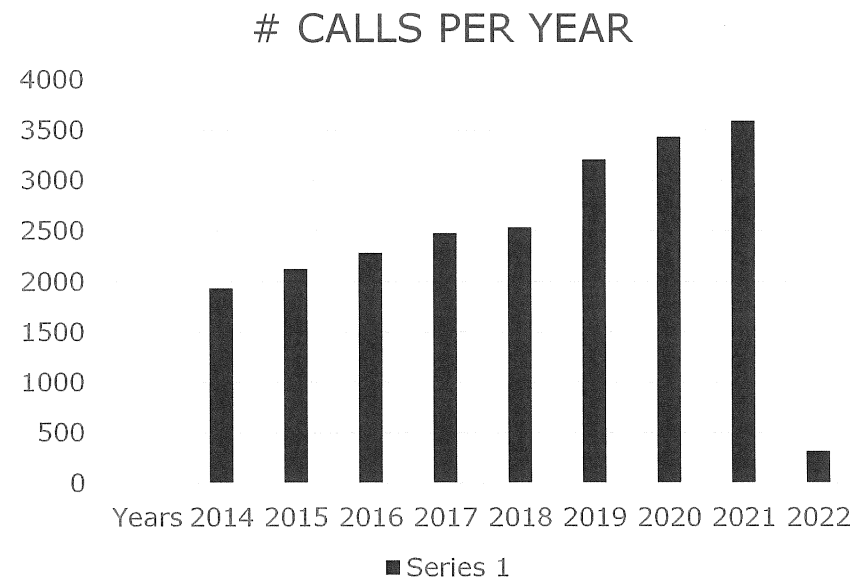
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Call Volume Increasing

Operational Tempo is Increasing

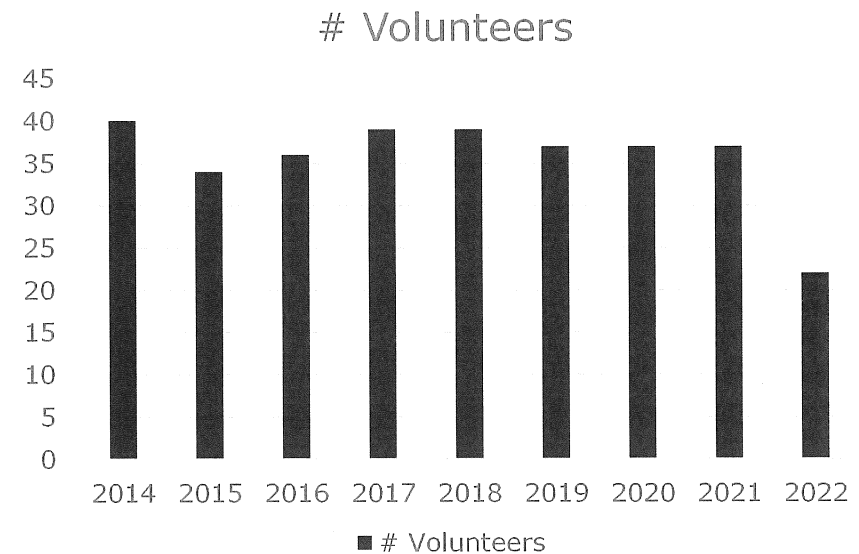
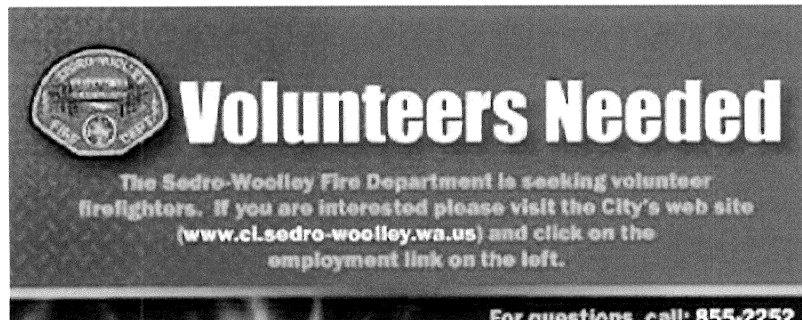


S-WFD Calls Increasing 6% per Year



Decrease in Membership

Number of Volunteers is Waning 45% Fewer Volunteers in 2022



Incidents by Month and Year										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	*2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	155	175	231	202	225	247	320	259	312	
February	143	151	177	171	187	247	246	250	260	
March	139	155	173	234	203	251	272	256	262	
April	162	152	186	200	167	244	267	307	257	
May	149	157	178	190	234	279	268	275	305	
June	148	164	172	203	229	274	271	330	293	
July	189	236	193	205	257	245	319	338		
August	178	211	221	222	216	323	317	355		
September	183	185	175	222	212	249	317	300		
October	163	186	172	228	201	308	302	283		
November	146	162	191	199	180	283	285	291		
December	176	188	209	196	217	253	245	343		
Yearly Total	1931	2122	2278	2472	2528	3203	3429	3587	1689	0
% Increase	3%	10%	7%	9%	2%	27%	7%	5%		

*First year of Paramedic Services for Sedro-Woolley Fire

Busiest Month in History

City of Mount Vernon

	Budget	FTE Total	Calls for service
2015	4,887,945	37	4827
2016	4,949,845	37	4901
2017	5,342,174	38	5733
2018	5,555,362	39	6102
2019	8,789,079	55	7369 First Year of Fire Based Medics in Skagit County
2020	9,061,801	55	7122
2021	8,692,929	55	8261

City of Burlington

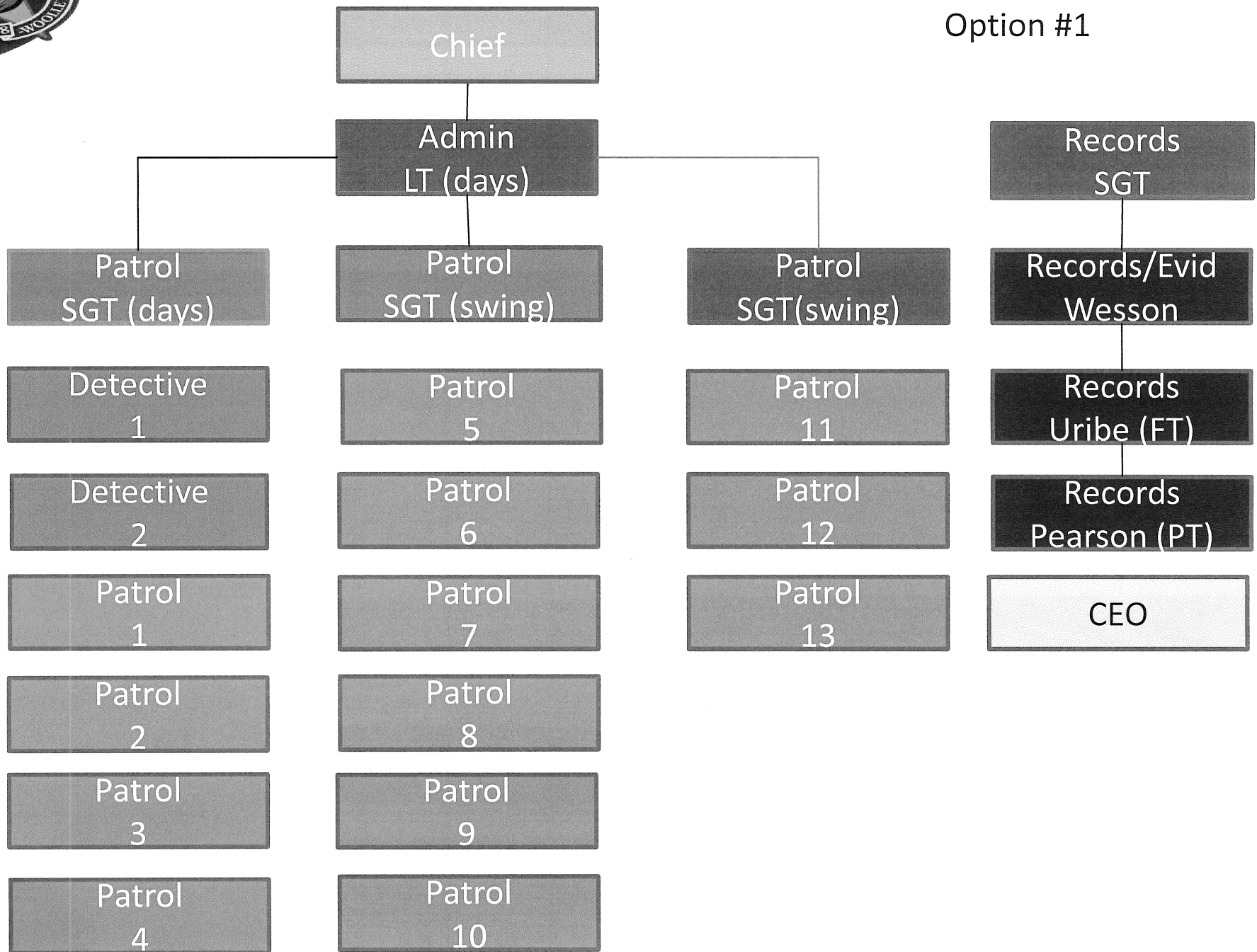
	Budget	FTE Total	Calls for service
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019	4,380,000	29	3869 First Year of Fire Based Medics in Skagit County
2020	4,613,334	28	3440
2021	5,294,589	28	3850

City of Sedro-Woolley

	Budget	FTE Total	Calls for service
2015	882,188	2	2122
2016	1,032,312	2	2278
2017	1,055,954	3	2472
2018	1,436,044	3	2528
2019	2,093,830	11	3203 First Year of Fire Based Medics in Skagit County
2020	2,664,075	11	3429
2021	3,537,975	11	3587



Police Supervision Proposal Option #1





Police Supervision Proposal Option #2

