



## **IMPORTANT FACTS**

### **About South Gate's Vital City Services Needs**

As of 05-01-08

**The City of South Gate is in a financial state of urgency and is operating paycheck to paycheck. The City has placed Measure P on the ballot to address this crisis and to protect the community from major service cuts and disruption of City services.**

**Q: What caused this problem? Is this unique to South Gate?**

A: Despite the City's best efforts, factors such as our growing population and years of "state money grabs," have left the City unable to fund the essential public services at the level necessary to meet current and future needs. This situation is not unique to South Gate. Cities throughout California have also been forced to address similar emergencies by tightening their belts and asking their communities for support.

**Q: What has the City done to address this problem?**

A: Over the past four years, the City has reduced the number of employees, consolidated departments and become more efficient in its operations. To date, these reductions have been made without impacting services to the community – but unfortunately, reserves will be depleted soon. Without new revenue, the City of South Gate will be forced to reduce essential services in the near future.

**Q: What about the problem of gangs and drugs?**

A: We know that drugs and gang related crimes are serious problems in South Gate. Los Angeles and cities throughout our area are getting tough with gangs. We must hire more police officers -- especially anti-gang officers -- to keep gang members out of South Gate and prevent our City from becoming a haven for gangs.

**Q: What about our children?**

A: We must keep our children out of gangs and off drugs. We must hire more school resource officers, expand anti-gang and anti-drug prevention programs, and improve after school programs that help keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

**Q: How will these challenges be addressed?**

A: To protect and maintain public safety and other essential services, the City has placed Measure P a small sales tax increase on the June 2008 ballot for community consideration.

**Q: What will Measure P Cost the Community?**

A: Measure P is a one cent sales tax increase. This means shoppers in South Gate would pay 3 cents on a \$3 cup of coffee or 15 cents on a \$15 CD to fund vital city services. Prescription medicine and food purchased as groceries are exempt from sales tax.

**Q: How will Measure P benefit the whole community?**

A: Measure P could:

- Provide police services
- Reduce emergency response times
- Expand youth anti-gang and anti-drug prevention programs
- Expand neighborhood graffiti removal programs
- Improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on city streets
- Increase after-school tutoring and mentoring programs
- Support programs for our seniors

**Q: How can we be sure that funds generated by Measure P, will be spent responsibly?**

A: This measure includes accountability provisions such as requiring financial oversight through guaranteed annual independent audits. Additionally, every penny of revenue from Measure P is legally required to stay local and can't be taken by Sacramento. These fiscal safeguards will ensure funds are used efficiently, effectively and as promised to voters.

**Q: How can I find out more information?**

A: If you would like to find out more about our efforts, please visit our website at <http://www.cityofsouthgate.org/>.