



HAMILTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLAN: A SUMMARY

THE PROBLEM:

For too long, the County's justice system has been overcrowded, the rate of recidivism has remained at 70%, and crime rates have been too high, especially for juveniles. Past solutions such as the Queensgate "temporary" facility and the Butler County contract have been expensive, unsustainable band-aids. No one has solved the problem in a long-term or comprehensive way.

THE SOLUTION:

The County Commission, Sheriff Simon Leis and Intervention Specialists like Doctor Walter Smitson have put together a comprehensive package of long-needed investments and reforms to address these issues and improve the safety of Hamilton County. The highlights of the Plan are:

EXPANDED ENFORCEMENT

- The County will take up **70% of County Communications Center** costs. This frees up millions of dollars for 48 cities, villages and townships to spend on public safety enhancements to better fight crime, prevent fires and respond to medical emergencies.
- The Plan provides ongoing funding of **targeted Sheriff's patrols** in Over the Rhine, and additional funding to expand patrols to hotspots throughout the County.
- The Plan adds prosecutors to pursue **federal gun prosecutions** of the County's most violent offenders. Such prosecutions will keep the most dangerous offenders off the streets for far longer sentences, and free up County jail space.

REFORM/LOWERING RECIDIVISM

- **Reentry planning:** the Plan creates a Reentry Planning approach where teams of specialists will assess the underlying issues that confront individual offenders as they enter the system, and then address those issues over the course of their term to minimize the likelihood that they will re-offend after release.
- **Rehabilitation:** the Plan adds investments in rehabilitation (mental illness, substance abuse, reentry, etc.), both inside and outside corrections facilities.
- **Accountability:** the Plan funds the Criminal Justice Commission, providing oversight and accountability to the millions spent on programs every year.
- **Juvenile violence:** The Plan invests new dollars in the Juvenile System, leading to more prevention and better interventions for high-risk juvenile offenders.

EXPANDED FACILITIES

- The Plan provides funding to **construct a new 1,800-bed facility** to meet the long-term demand for added jail space. The facility will be located on the property already acquired (at no cost) by the County in Camp Washington (the old Kahn's site).
- The Plan provides the needed funds to operate the facility.
- By consolidating numerous outdated facilities into one modern facility, the Plan achieves millions of dollars in **operating efficiencies**. New facilities will also allow for treatment and other efforts to reduce recidivism.

HAMILTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLAN: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



THE COST:

To fund this Plan for a 30-year period, a temporary sales tax is proposed. A half-cent increase for eight years, decreased by a quarter-cent for seven years, and then eliminated.

THE SAVINGS:

Compared to other plans, or allowing the status quo to continue as is, the Plan actually avoids major tax increases in the future.

- Over \$200 Million saved due to no financing charges.
- Over \$200 Million saved by increasing efficiency of operations
- \$15 Million to \$58 Million saved due to rental of spaces in the short-term
- \$7 Million saved due to donation of Kahns' site
- Commissioners' careful review plans for facility reduced cost by \$26 Million

And by investing in reforms and treatment, success in reducing recidivism will avoid the even more costly expenditures if the jail population continues to increase under current incarceration patterns.

THERE ARE NO NO-TAX OPTIONS:

Despite some assertions to the contrary, the simple truth is that there are no viable options to do this the right way that do not require a new tax source. For example, the most recent "no tax" option proposed spends \$100 million to build a building, but contains no money to operate the building (which costs at least \$12 million per year), and no money for the type of reforms or treatment that will reduce the long-term jail population projections. And it continues all of the operational inefficiencies of using multiple buildings, while relying upon the continued use of a building housing 800 inmates that the Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention will not certify due to its deplorable conditions.

In contrast, this Comprehensive Approach presents the only responsible option.