



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

Subject Report Out on Shared Police Services Study With Los Altos Hills

Prepared by: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s): Attachment 1: Initial Assessment for Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Police Services
Attachment 2: August 22, 2023 Staff Report, City of Los Altos
Attachment 3: August 17, 2023 Staff Report, Town of Los Altos Hills

Initiated by:
Request from the Town of Los Altos Hills

Previous Council Consideration: August 22, 2023

Background:

At the regular City Council meeting on August 22, 2023, the City Council considered a request from the Town of Los Altos Hills to engage in an initial assessment of the feasibility of shared police services. This report provides the results of the initial analysis and is included as attachment 1.

Fiscal Impact:

\$25,000 from the General Fund.

Environmental Review:

This action does not qualify as a "Project" as defined in California Government Code Section 15378(b) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and it is also considered a feasibility or planning study for possible future action and exempt under CEQA Guidelines 15262.

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

Does the City Council wish to further examine the possibility of developing an agreement for shared law enforcement services?

If the City Council does wish to proceed, will the City Council authorize \$25,000 from the general fund to complete a formal analysis?

Summary:

The City of Los Altos and the Town of Los Altos Hills completed an initial assessment (attachment 1) of the feasibility of shared police services after Council authorization on August 22, 2023 (attachment 2).

The results of the initial assessment show that shared services may be feasible, but more analysis is necessary if the Town and the City are interested in pursuing a shared police model.



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The initial assessment was paid for entirely by the Town of Los Altos Hills. Each of the models considered in the assessment assumed that shared Police services would improve policing in both jurisdictions. Should the City Council wish to complete a formal study, staff believes it is appropriate to share in these costs as there are benefits to both parties in further exploration. The current estimate of a formal study is expected to be \$50,000 with each jurisdiction providing 50% of the necessary funds. Should the ultimate study, if approved, cost more or less than this estimate, each jurisdiction would continue to provide 50% of the funding.

Staff Recommendation:

Discuss the initial analysis and information in this staff report and provide direction as to whether the City Council would like to further study shared Police services with Los Altos Hills.

If the City Council would like to proceed, direction should include the approval of increasing the current budget by \$25,000 in the General Fund.

Purpose:

Through their respective City Councils, the Cities of Los Altos and the Town of Los Altos Hills agreed to examine the possibility of developing an agreement for shared law enforcement services. The result of this analysis are contained in the staff report as attachment 3 and is intended to provide leadership in the City and the Town with preliminary data so both jurisdictions:

- (1) are informed about progress,
- (2) have the opportunity to provide direction on the types of information needed for future decisions, and
- (3) may confirm if they wish to complete a formal study.

Discussion/Analysis:

At the regular City Council meeting on August 22, 2023 the City Council considered a request from the Town of Los Altos Hills to engage in an initial assessment of the feasibility of shared police services. The results of the initial assessment show that shared services may be feasible, but more analysis is necessary if the Town and the City are interested in pursuing a shared police model.

The initial analysis provides high-level, conceptual outlines of feasibility, structure, operational evaluations, and a potential financial model. It is expected each of these areas would be further developed or refined through the completion of a formal study.

It is important to note that the data provided in this staff report, including the initial assessment, is informational only and that any action to change law enforcement service providers by the Town of Los Altos will be conducted in a manner consistent with state and Los Altos Hills services procurement policies.

Additionally, the discussions to date, and/or any further studies do not constitute any agreement between the parties. Any item outside of the initial assessment and the further, formal study would require approval by the City Council of the City of Los Altos.



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