

A Letter to the Redmond Community from former City Council President, Tanika Padhye

I am former City Council President, Tanika Padhye. I have been working on the Public Safety Levy for Redmond, as the campaign manager, which is on the ballot this November. I believe that passing this levy is important for Redmond as our city continues to grow and with the upcoming arrival of light rail. Funding from the levy would help ensure that all our fire stations are fully funded; that our police department could hire more personnel including more Mental Health Professionals; and much more. Now is the time to be proactive, and to have personnel that can assist with an increase in visitors to our city and serve our growing population.

Before pursuing a public safety levy option, a robust public process was conducted. The results clearly showed that the Redmond community expects there to be adequate emergency and safety related services. <https://www.letsconnectredmond.com/Safety>

Here in Washington state, we are limited to a 1% raise in property taxes. However, due to inflation, our expenses have outpaced revenue. Without the passage of the Public Safety levy, the City will be unable to fund enhanced community-based services, nor will it be able to keep pace with our current level of service. Passing the Public Safety Levy is proactive planning for the future. I also strongly believe that passage of this levy is essential for our local businesses to ensure they have the support needed to thrive, and enhanced responsiveness from our first responders should the need arise.

When I served as City Council President, I developed a deep understanding of the City budgeting process and the important work done by the City's first responders. Two things really stood out to me during our last biannual budget cycle. There were concerns raised by many residents asking us to fund alternatives to public safety. We unfortunately did not have the funds to do so. Also, I heard many success stories involving our Mental Health Professional, Susie Kroll, and her success in working with the Redmond Police Department to deescalate tense situations and help both residents and our local businesses. If the Public Safety Levy passes, the City would be able to hire more behavioral specialists to serve all who choose to live, visit, or work in Redmond. <https://www.redmond.gov/1590/Mental-Health-Professional>

Please visit our website to learn more about the levy and how you can support it. At this time, we have reached our fundraising goal, but endorsements and reaching out to your personal networks to support the levy would be most helpful.

<https://www.yes4redmondsafety.com>