



BOZEMAN POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

October 18, 2018

To Our Citizens:

In light of recent statements made to local media outlets and on social media platforms, the Bozeman Police Protective Association felt it necessary to publicly announce our stance on the issue concerning the proposed Bozeman Public Safety Center. Our intent initially was to support the project, but stay away from making a public announcement and let the citizens we serve make their collective decision at the ballot box. However, we feel the recent media statements and Facebook post made by Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin does not provide the citizens of Bozeman with complete and accurate information.

The Bozeman Police Protective Association (BPPA) is a self-funded collective bargaining/employee rights organization representing approximately fifty-five men and women officers and sergeants of the Bozeman Police Department. The information contained in this letter is the sole expression of the BPPA and does not come from the direction of any level of Bozeman city government. Additionally, our members are active throughout the greater Bozeman community, not only serving the citizens of Bozeman, but also participating in many of the same recreational activities, events and non-profits the Gallatin Valley has to offer. Our

desire to give back to those we serve does not end when the uniform is taken off at the end of our shift.

Our concern is Sheriff Gootkin's characterization that our citizens will be less safe if voters approve the Bozeman Public Safety Center. The BPPA firmly disagrees with this statement and is disappointed Sheriff Gootkin choose to make this statement in such close proximity to the November election as the planning and development of the Bozeman Public Safety Center has been an on-going and public process for over a year. Our purpose is to continue to provide our community with the highest level of police service, regardless of what facility we operate out of. There have been several opportunities to approve a new Law and Justice Center, however, those bond measures did not pass. It is our understanding the city and county attempted to maintain a joint police/sheriff building however it became apparent a new route was needed to better serve those who reside in and call Bozeman home.

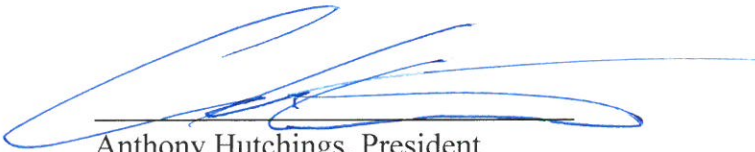
The Bozeman Public Safety Center is not just about the police and fire departments, this facility will also house the Bozeman Municipal Court, city prosecution offices, and victim advocates who all work hand in hand with one another, day in and day out. By centrally locating all disciplines, we will be able to better serve the citizens of Bozeman in a more efficient manner. Furthermore, housing municipal police separate from their respective counties sheriff's office is not an uncommon concept. Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls all follow this model and still provide top tier public safety services to their respective communities.

While the members of the BPPA collaborate with our sheriff's office counterparts on a daily basis, a majority of our time spent together occurs outside the Law and Justice Center during routine patrols, traffic accidents, medical emergencies, and community events. Our detective divisions share many of the same board memberships and meet regularly, outside of the

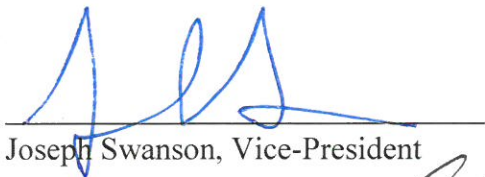
Law and Justice Center, with groups such as the Gallatin County Sexual Assault Response Team, Multi-disciplinary team, and the high risk domestic violence team. Regardless if we share a building or not, our collaboration and communication will continue and we will continue to work together. The mere fact of not sharing the same building will not make our community a less safe place.

The bottom line is the BPPA does not agree with Sheriff Gootkin's assessment of the Bozeman Public Safety Center. He has not provided any factual information other than stating our community will be less safe should the Bozeman Public Safety Center bond pass. The BPPA supports the Bozeman Public Safety Center bond measure and encourages all community members to have their voice heard at the November 6, 2018 election.

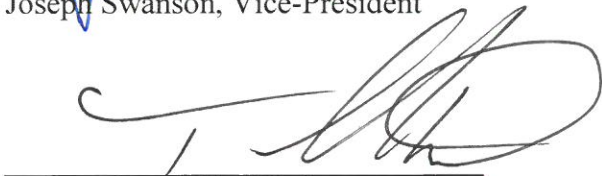
Bozeman Police Protective Association



Anthony Hutchings, President



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