

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opposition to Prop. 1 Swells

Contrary to a recent city-wide email from Mayor Becker's office claiming there was no organized opposition to Proposition 1, hundreds of citizens have raised concerns through the internet about the location, timing, funding, expense, and need for the new public safety building.

From a few emails a week ago expressing doubts about the city's messages to citizens in a \$75,000 campaign to solicit positive votes for the project, the concern of citizens has snowballed into an amazing cry for 'Hold On' until we have a better understanding of the plans.

At issue are the mixed messages emanating from City Hall. For example, the Public Safety Building FAQs say: "Barring any unforeseen and unanticipated developments, the preferred location of the Barnes Bank Block is where the new Public Safety Building and Emergency Operations Center will be built." But at community council presentations, city representatives say "preferred location" means the public will have a voice in deciding the proper location and design of the building.

While it is clear that Salt Lake City residents are in favor of providing an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for our Police, Fire and Security personnel, it is not clear that the current plan is the most cost effective choice nor that it is the best site option for the new EOC.

The city required the Leonardo to describe every nuance, every bolt, every programmatic detail before the City would release their bond money flies in the face of asking us release to \$125 million (about \$55 million more than the library bond) before the public has details in place. The double standard is notable. The public is unaware that lower cost options are available and that building the EOC East of Library square is the result of destructive urban planning that would cause social, visual and aesthetic fallout. Library Square and its landscaped park were planned, designed and built to take the greatest possible advantage of the magnificent views of the Wasatch Front and its mountains. Following a huge public outcry over the decision to put a new Public Safety Building on Library Square, an equally bad choice was made for a 300 East location.

The selection process should be conducted with real transparency and public discourse and full disclosure of the possible alternative and yet lower cost options. Salt Lake City is entitled to an opportunity for real citizen and community/neighborhood involvement.

The Public Safety bond would cost approximately \$75 more a year for the owner of a \$250,000 home. It would mean \$522 more per year on a \$1 million commercial business/property.

Whether or not the bond passes or fails on November 3rd, the citizens of Salt Lake City need better leadership and participation in this important decision. Should the structure be built on 300 East, it will be a result of:

- Mishandling of the site selection process
- Ignoring incompatibility of emergency operations and Library/Leonardo public use
- Destructive urban planning
- Poor social, visual, and aesthetic judgment

Citizens for Better Leadership and Planning is calling for the elimination of the 300 East location from consideration for the new Public Safety compound, a the new and transparent selection process, consideration

of other alternate sites already identified, and a more cost-effective solution for an Emergency Operations Center that places less tax burden on the average Salt Lake resident and small business.

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