BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF KITTITAS
STATE OF WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION

NO. 2009_____

RESOLUTION AWARDING FUNDING FOR A SPECIAL GRANT PURSUANT TO LAW AND JUSTICE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION ON SPENDING OF 1/10TH OF 1% SALES TAX RESERVES

WHEREAS: The Kittitas County Law and Justice Council met at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 21, 2009, and voted unanimously for the below described special funding recommendation; and

WHEREAS: This expenditure shall be made from the 1/10th of 1% sales tax reserve account established by the Board of County Commissioners for spending on special projects to foster cooperation, sharing of resources and enhancement of criminal justice projects with Kittitas County; and

WHEREAS: Funding is to be made available January 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS: The amount authorized for 2010 grants is $25,994.00. Current balance in the grant funds if $42,031.00. Additionally, it is projected that additional revenues will be receipted to this account under the 1/10 of 1% allocation by January 1, 2010. Remaining funds are to be reserved for the county firing range and this proposed 3/10th sales tax study; and

WHEREAS: The Kittitas County Law and Justice Council and the Board of County Commissioners have deemed these expenditures in the best interest of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following funding recommendation as made by the Kittitas County Law and Justice Council and this expenditure shall be made from the 1/10th of 1% sales tax reserve account.

The following grant is awarded:

2010-13 -- $10,000.00 for 3/10% Sales Tax Funding Impact Assessment Project by Dr. Charles E. Reasons, Ph.D., J.D., Central Washington University.

ADOPTED this _____day of _____2009

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Alan Crankovich, Chair

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Paul Jewell, Vice-Chair

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Mark McClain, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

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Stephanie Happold
WSBA #38112
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE BOARD

_____
Julie Kjorsvik

LAW AND JUSTICE IN KITTITAS COUNTY: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE 3/10% FUNDING

By:
Dr. Charles E. Reasons, Ph.D., J.D.
Professor & Chair
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Central Washington University
Ph. 509-963-1779
Email: reasonsc@cwu.edu

Why Study Needed?

1. Attempt to determine impact of additional tax dollars upon Kittitas County law and justice;
2. A scientifically based longitudinal study;
3. An unbiased, independent study;
4. Results will help provide fact based data-driven discussions;
5. The study will provide county leaders and the public with rational, scientific bases for assessing the impact of the new tax;
6. The study will assist in providing accountability for the tax payer.
7. The study will provide a systematic data collection base for future research assessment; and
8. The $10,000 cost is a very small fraction of the tax payer money being spent via the new tax.

Abstract

Kittitas County residents passed a 3/10 1% tax in fall 2007 to fund increased staff in the county law and justice system. This $1 million plus revenue is being spent on personnel for law enforcement, courts and corrections. This research project will consist of a natural experiment design comparing data from 2003-2007 (the pre-tax period) and 2008-2012 (the post-tax period) data. Combining police, courts, prosecutors, juvenile and public data the research will assess both the impact of the funding and the perception of the impact of the funding. This project is the initial stage to set up the data collection instruments and processes needed for assessing long term impact.

RESEARCH DESIGN

I. Review of literature.

An extensive search of published and unpublished studies concerning the impact of increased law and justice (LAJ) funding upon the community/ jurisdiction and the justice system.

II. Hypothesis

Derived from the literature review and relevant previous research.

III. Data Collection

1. Time period.
   A natural experiment comparing data from a pre-3/10% period to a post-3/10% period.
   a. Data from 2003-2007 (5 yr. period) as a pre-3/10% period.
   b. Data from 2008-2012 (5 yr. period) as a post-3/10% period.

2. Police data
   a. 911 county data.
   b. Data from County Sheriffs, Ellensburg, Kittitas and Cle Elum/Roslyn police departments.
   c. Animal Control/Fish & Game/etc.

3. Prosecutor Office
   a. Cases received for prosecution
   b. Cases prosecuted
   c. Cases not prosecuted
   d. Trials
   e. Convictions/ non-convictions

4. Court data
   a. Kittitas County Superior court and lower courts data for volume over time, convictions/non-convictions.
   b. Probation - population

5. Corrections
   a. Jail - population

6. Juvenile
   a. Offenses - nature
   b. Court - caseload
   c. Corrections – number under supervision

7. Public Data
   a. Convenient sample of public opinions, and sample of targeted populations

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

V. FINAL REPORT

A 50 plus page final report, with appendices for an estimated 100 plus page final report to be delivered by January 2011.

BUDGET FOR RESEARCH

1. Dr. Reasons $100 per hour X 90 hrs= $9,000

2. Costs/Disbursements e.g. phone, mail, paper, copying, ect. =$1,000

   Total $10,000

3. In kind, gratis work by Dr. Reasons, 120 hours & $100 per hour = $12,000 (this figure provided to indicate relative cost of study).

TIMELINE FOR RESEARCH

I. January - February 2010
   Review of Literature/Hypothesis Generation
   20 hrs. per month = 40 hrs.

II. March - April
   Establish Data Bases
   20 hrs. per month = 40 hrs.

III. May – September
Collect Data
20 hrs. per month = 100 hrs.

IV. October – December
Analyze Data / Write Report
20 hrs. per month = 60 hrs.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

March 2010	-	$2,000
May 2010	-	$2,000
August 2010	-	$2,000
October 2010	-	$2,000
January 8, 2011	-	$1,000 (Upon Final Report Delivery)