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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 2, 2015

The Public Safety Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 2, 2015 at 3:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT	COMMITTEE ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman	None	John Pombier
Alex Finter		Alfred Smith
Christopher Glover		Dee Ann Mickelsen

Assistant Fire Chief Mary Cameli introduced Amber Ibarra, Angela Schultz and Bianca Castro, staff members from the office of U.S. Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema, who were visiting the Mesa Fire and Medical Department.

Chairman Finter welcomed the individuals to the City of Mesa.

1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide a recommendation on a Fire Code Amendment Regarding Fire Access.

Battalion Chief Rich Kochanski stated that he was prepared to discuss a proposed amendment to the 2006 International Fire Code section 503.1.1. He explained that the Code is written in a very general format, with the Fire Code official having the opportunity to interpret the document using the strengths and weaknesses of the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) and the local water system.

Chief Kochanski reported that section 503.1.1. provides for limitations to access or distances from the frontage or sides of a residential property from which an owner can build a house. He stated that staff is beginning to see an increase in difficulties for homeowners and builders concerning this access requirement.

Chief Kochanski noted that in an effort to address this matter, staff would propose to add an exception to Code section 503.1.1. that reads as follows: “All one and two family residences

with a square footage of less than 5,000 square feet and having a frontage of no less than 50 feet are exempt from section 503.1.1."

Chief Kochanski indicated that such an exception will not only assist builders and homeowners who want to make small additions to a residence, but also capture the square footage of a home that becomes a "big box residential." He said that buildings of that size could pose a danger to its occupants and the firefighters who are required to battle a fire at the site. He added that given the size and infrastructure of the MFMD, in his opinion, this would be an appropriate exception to place in the Code.

Chairman Finter stated that he appreciated the flexibility of the exception, but noted that it is also important to maintain the safety of the firefighters. He thanked Chief Kochanski for bringing this item forward.

It was moved by Committeemember Glover, seconded by Committeemember Kavanaugh, to recommend to the full Council that staff's recommendation be approved.

Carried unanimously.

2-b. Hear a presentation and discuss an update of the Photo Safety Program.

Police Lieutenant Aaron Spicer addressed the Committee and introduced other staff members in the audience who have worked on the Photo Safety Program.

Lieutenant Spicer displayed a PowerPoint presentation **(See Attachment 1)** and stated that he was prepared to provide the Committee a one-year update of the Council's directives with regard to the City of Mesa's Photo Safety Program. He reported that it was impossible to discuss the Photo Safety Program without also reviewing the City's overall Traffic Safety Program. He explained that as a result of that program, Mesa residents are learning better driving habits and added that crashes in the community have been reduced substantially as compared to incidents in neighboring cities and towns.

Lieutenant Spicer briefly highlighted the Council's Directives 1 through 5 as follows:

1. Implement a system to ensure improvements in the program.
2. Research the expansion of school zone cameras.
3. Eliminate the photo enforcement vans.
4. Reinvest funds back into the Photo Safety Plan.
5. Present a formal City Council program review in one year (around March 2015).

Chairman Finter suggested that the language in Directive 4 be modified to read as follows: "Reinvest funds back into the **Traffic** Safety Plan."

Deputy City Manager John Pombier clarified that staff has, in fact, reinvested the funds back into the Traffic Safety Plan.

Lieutenant Spicer provided a short synopsis of staff's efforts with respect to Directive 1. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1) He noted, among other things, that staff established a Photo Safety Steering Committee, which has updated two of the Mesa Police Department's (MPD) policies

related to Photo Safety. (TRF 2.3 and TRF 2.8) He also remarked that staff has standardized their statistical reporting through the Transportation Department. He added that social media has been implemented to apprise the public regarding the importance of not drinking and driving or running red lights. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Chairman Finter stated that he would hope that Mesa Channel 11 continues to promote traffic safety features by airing more Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Lieutenant Spicer, in addition, commented that the City's Traffic/Photo Safety Program is a cooperative effort that includes participation by various City departments; American Traffic Solutions (ATS), Mesa's photo safety vendor; and Mesa Public Schools and Gilbert Public Schools. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1)

Lieutenant Spicer further reported that concerning Directive 2, City staff conducted speed studies at a number of local schools. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1) He explained that several locations were identified for the deployment of speed cameras, with installation currently underway at Porter Elementary School. He also indicated that at Dobson High School, roadway and speed studies revealed that the road design was incompatible for photo safety enforcement.

In response to a question from Committeemember Kavanaugh, Lieutenant Spicer clarified that with the timing of several signalized intersections near Dobson High School, it was determined that the area was not a suitable location in which to install traffic cameras. He acknowledged that there are enforcement and speed issues near the school, but reiterated that the design of the lights in that location would not lend themselves to the best use of photo safety cameras.

Committeemember Kavanaugh suggested that the MPD's Traffic Enforcement team continue to work that area since there are many speed violations issued near the school.

Chairman Finter commented that with respect to Porter Elementary School, he was aware of significant student traffic in the area not only from the elementary students boarding and exiting the school buses, but also from an alternative high school which holds classes at a nearby church. He said that he was aware of some incidents that have occurred in the area.

Lieutenant Spicer concurred with Chairman Finter's assessment and noted that photo safety cameras at that location would be just one component of the City's Traffic Safety Program. He said that other components include educational opportunities at the school, standard enforcement activities and the use of speed trailers.

Lieutenant Spicer continued with his presentation and commented that with regard to Directive 3, the photo enforcement vans were eliminated, with the vehicles being repurposed into the MPD's fleet for other uses.

Lieutenant Spicer, in addition, reported that relative to Directive 4, the MPD has reinvested funds back into the Traffic Safety Program through the purchase of speed trailers, a moving radar program and educational programs. (See Page 10 of Attachment 1) He noted, for example, that the speed trailers, which can be set up at specific locations within the four Police districts, are designed to capture speed data. He explained that such data can either validate or

invalidate information that the MPD has received from the public with respect to speed issues in a certain area of the community.

In response to a question from Committeemember Kavanaugh, Police Lieutenant Michael Bellows reported that traffic enforcement requests are transmitted to the Traffic Division and other divisions through social media (i.e., tip line). He said that the dispatchers can also send such information to the officers via radio or online.

Lieutenant Bellows further remarked that an officer will conduct an assessment of a particular area; that the speed trailers are one of the first tools deployed to determine whether there is an issue or ongoing problem; that the MPD also has an historical database which staff can review to assess whether there has been an issue in the past; that the speed trailers capture data in 15-minute increments; that staff can narrow down the timeframe when speeding cars are traveling through a specific area; and that officers are typically deployed to those areas during such timeframes in an effort to address the issues identified by the speed trailer data.

Chairman Finter commented that he was informed by former Police Chief Frank Milstead that a new technology was available on the market called Accident Avoidance. He explained that such technology enables a photo safety camera to sense that a motorist is going to run a light and said the camera can hold the light for a second or two longer to hopefully avoid a collision. He inquired if ATS had such technology.

Mark Freeby, Vice President of Account Management for ATS, responded that his company does not have the Accident Avoidance technology for the reason that the company does not support a camera that overtakes any of the timing of the City, but rather allows the timing of the City to be "totally hands off" as part of the Department of Transportation (DOT). He explained that the equipment that ATS has supplied and the City has purchased over the years is not necessarily connected, but simply a recorder of the amber time. He added that although he was not knowledgeable of such technology, he would go back to his company's product management team and provide Chairman Finter whatever information is available.

Lieutenant Spicer highlighted Directive 5 and indicated that today's presentation is a review of the five directives issued by the Council. (See Page 11 of Attachment 1) He also displayed a map titled "Citation Summary – City Residency" (See Page 12 of Attachment 1), as well as three charts illustrating the results that drivers are traveling slower through school zones; Mesa residents are applying the learning Citywide; and Mesa's Traffic Safety Program is a success. (See Pages 13, 14 and 15 respectively of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Chairman Finter, Lieutenant Spicer clarified that during after-school hours, the photo safety cameras in the school zones are on and capturing violations over the posted speeds.

Chairman Finter recognized the City's Traffic Engineering Department and expressed appreciation that it was participating in the Photo Safety Steering Committee.

In response to a question from Chairman Finter, Mr. Pombier stated that he would anticipate this item would be brought forward to the full Council sometime in April.

Chairman Finter thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide a recommendation regarding the proposed Mesa Regional Dispatch Center including, but not limited to, the site selection.

City Engineer Beth Huning introduced Senior Civil Engineer Dave Wilkins, Assistant Fire Chief Cori Hayes and Police Commander Dave Hagar, who were prepared to address the Committee.

Mr. Wilkins thanked staff from the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD), the Mesa Police Department (MPD), the Communications Department and the Information Technology Department (ITD) for the support and hard work they have provided to the Engineering Department as it relates to the proposed Mesa Regional Dispatch Center (MRDC). He stated that the purpose of today's presentation was to provide a summary of the site selection process for the MRDC, staff's preferred site recommendation and to seek the Committee's input and concurrence on such recommendation.

Mr. Wilkins displayed a PowerPoint presentation **(See Attachment 2)** and reported that in conjunction with the 2013 Public Safety Bond Election, Mesa voters approved $16 million in bonds for a new Dispatch and Communications Center. He noted that of that amount, $2.5 million has been allocated for various backup radio network infrastructure, resulting in an estimated $13.5 million to fund the MRDC.

In response to a question from Chairman Finter, Communications Director Randy Thompson clarified that when the budget was created for the bond election, he was contacted by Assistant Fire Chief Jim Bloomer and asked to include the cost to purchase backup infrastructure for the TOPAZ network and the Fire Hazard Zone.

Chairman Finter recounted that in 2008 when the Council first considered this item, the proposed bond amount was $16 million for a Regional Dispatch and Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He pointed out, however, that nothing was mentioned at that time with regard to updating the backup infrastructure or $2.5 million "coming off the top."

Mr. Thompson responded that a portion of the $2.5 million has already been expended for the backup site for the TOPAZ network. He said that the equipment will be located at the radio site at Fire Station 219.

Chairman Finter stated that the purpose of the updated infrastructure was to back up the 800 megahertz (MHz) system, but not necessarily associated with the construction of the MRDC, which Mesa voters were led to believe would be funded with the bond monies.

Committeemember Glover inquired who directed Chief Bloomer to include the $2.5 million for infrastructure costs in the budget for the Public Safety Bond Election.

Deputy City Manager John Pombier responded that Chief Bloomer was directed to create a budget for the Dispatch and Communications Center project; that he asked staff from various departments what they would need in terms of funding, which he then included in the budget. He noted that the backup infrastructure costs "did not come as a surprise to Chief Bloomer." He added that if Chief Bloomer were here today, he would tell the Committee that if Mr. Thompson had not requested the $2.5 million, the budget for the bond election would have been $2.5 million less.

Chairman Finter expressed concern that by decreasing the $16 million bond amount by $2.5 million, there might not be sufficient monies to complete all of the projects at the MRDC that the Council had hoped would be done.

Committeemember Kavanaugh remarked that when he served as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee during the 2008 time period, he was unaware of the above-mentioned equipment upgrade costs going into the bond discussion or after the fact. He stated that in his opinion, the bond funding was always for the capital costs of the building.

Mr. Pombier indicated that Chief Bloomer did exactly what he was asked to do. He noted that the fact that such direction was not clearly articulated to the Council as part of the bond program rests with him and his staff, but not Chief Bloomer.

Committeemember Glover commented that it was disconcerting to him that Mr. Pombier left the Council "out of the loop" and did not fully articulate such direction.

Chairman Finter said that he would think there are great opportunities for staff to increase their communication efforts with the Council throughout the remainder of this process.

Mr. Wilkins continued with the presentation and reported that the space in the existing dispatch facility is limited, which has necessitated staff to seek a new site that would provide more room for expansion. He explained that it was also important to create a backup system for redundancy and resiliency, meaning that if there was a failure at one site, the calls could be handled at another location. He provided a short synopsis of the site evaluation criteria that staff used as part of their site selection process. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Wilkins remarked that staff conducted a screening process, wherein they reviewed the inventory of City-owned parcels and the utility infrastructure available at each site; visited sites to assess drainage and land use compatibility; and prepared conceptual site layouts for evaluation. He added that staff selected ten City-owned sites. (See Page 6 of Attachment 2)

Discussion ensued relative to Site 10 (Northwest corner of Pecos and Sossaman), which was eliminated due to the existence of Doppler radar near the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, which could negatively impact the electronics (i.e., headsets) in a nearby facility.

Mr. Wilkins, in addition, noted that staff was asked to consider non-City-owned sites and reviewed two areas in west Mesa. (See Page 7 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Wilkins further displayed a series of maps illustrating the reasons that certain properties were eliminated as possible sites for the MRDC. (See Pages 8 through 11 of Attachment 2) He said that the factors considered were as follows: communication conflicts; drainage issues; lack of telephone redundancy; conflicting land use; demolition issues; and site restrictions. He added that the existing Communications building (Site 1) is situated within a particular zone that is managed by Century Link.

In response to a question from Chairman Finter, Chief Hayes clarified that the City's existing wire centers (as illustrated on Page 9 of Attachment 2) are served by equipment located within central offices.

Chairman Finter commented that he recently spoke with the 911 Administrator from the City of Phoenix and was informed that an estimated 70% of the 911 calls come from wireless phones. He stated that would leave approximately 30% of the calls that are received through a hardwire system which, he was told, is a fairly reliable copper wire system. He stated that approximately one year ago, a water leak occurred in one of the City's central offices, which resulted in the failure of several backup systems. He noted that it was somewhat of an extraordinary event and perhaps even a fluke. He inquired whether staff was possibly overreacting by using that event as a reason to eliminate possible sites for the MRDC.

Ms. Huning clarified that Century Link has what are called main stations, with one located in downtown Mesa and another near Power Road. She explained that the buildings, which contain equipment, separate where the utility's main lines come into Mesa. She stated that to the best of her memory, the failure that occurred at the central office was when water leaked into the building and the main equipment failed as opposed to the hardwire. She added that it was important for the City to have a separate main substation for the hardwire system.

Chairman Finter stated that he would hope that staff would not take that particular reason completely off the table.

Mr. Wilkins remarked that in a follow-up conversation with a representative from Century Link, that person highly recommended that if the City wanted true redundancy, it should go to another central office.

Chairman Finter invited Fire Chief Harry Beck to come forward and join the other staff members.

Mr. Wilkins reported that through a process of elimination, staff would recommend the site located at the northeast corner of 32nd Street and McDowell Road. (See Page 12 of Attachment 2) He pointed out that the benefits to the site include no acquisition costs, limited demolition, land use compatibility, freeway access, and communication redundancy since it is served by a different central office. He also stated that there were neighborhoods in the surrounding area, but suggested that if the facility was located on the north side of McDowell Road, the usage would be appropriate. He added that there are existing offsite street improvements, the availability of utilities and communication infrastructure, and no major drainage issues.

Mr. Wilkins also displayed a Conceptual Site Plan for the facility, which is located on 13.6 acres. (See Page 14 of Attachment 2) He pointed out that one advantage of the site is the potential to grow and add another building on the remainder of the property in the future, if necessary. He also noted that the site offers some phased development.

In response to a question from Chairman Finter, Mr. Wilkins clarified that it would make sense to build a shell if there were sufficient funds in order to do so.

Mr. Wilkins concluded his presentation and stated that staff was seeking the Committee's input with respect to the site selection process for the MRDC.

Committeemember Glover remarked that having served on the Public Safety Committee for the last four years, when this project was first presented, a lot of attention was focused on the west side of the community. He stated that the Committee challenged staff to "think outside of the

box" and consider other successful projects that have been completed, such as the Mesa Municipal Court and Benedictine University.

Committeemember Glover further commented that with regard to the MRDC, staff asked the Committee for their input, and yet only presented one choice for their consideration. He inquired who made the ultimate decision that this was the only option. He also expressed frustration that the west side of Mesa was not considered, including not only the downtown and Fiesta District, but also a variety of industrialized areas.

Mr. Pombier responded that from the very beginning of this project, staff was fighting two competing interests consisting of cost and time, both of which were imperative.

Committeemember Glover questioned why there was a self-imposed time commitment by staff with respect to this project. He stated that he has rarely seen staff move so quickly on a project, especially something having to do with Police and Fire, which usually takes years to plan and develop.

Mr. Pombier clarified that as a result of several incidents that occurred at the City's Communications Center and taking a look at some of the shortcomings of the facility, staff was interested in building redundancy and resiliency as quickly as possible. He also noted that in 2013 when the Public Safety Bond package was approved by Mesa voters, staff endeavored to "deliver on that promise" as quickly as they could.

Committeemember Glover suggested that delivering on a promise should include the entire $16 million and not just part of it.

Mr. Pombier reiterated that the Public Safety Bond Election included a package for $16 million, but pointed out that $2.5 million was earmarked for the radio backup infrastructure previously discussed by Mr. Thompson. He explained that from staff's perspective, that was always the understanding, but concurred that the information was not conveyed to the Council in an effective manner. He added that the blame rests with him and assured the Committee that it would not happen again.

Mr. Pombier further remarked that during one of his first meetings with staff regarding this project, he directed them to start the site selection process with City-owned properties, which included 30, and was eventually narrowed down to ten. He noted that staff went through a very distinctive triage process with respect to the ten properties. He added that at the request of Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, staff considered two west side properties and conducted a similar process with those sites.

Committeemember Glover questioned why the west side sites were eliminated in the selection process.

Mr. Pombier stated that in his opinion, it was important that the phone lines be on a different central office. He commented that he made that assumption based on the Council's direction that they wanted redundancy and resiliency. He also noted that the second reason was cost.

Committeemember Glover commented that would it not have been the Council's direction what the cost would be and what the City would ultimately pay as opposed to staff making that decision.

Mr. Pombier responded that it was his belief that the budget for the project was $13.5 million ($16 million minus $2.5 million). He explained that with that amount of funding, if he could not have found a suitable City-owned site, he would have considered sites that the City would have had to purchase. He also stated that since staff found a site that staff from the four City departments believed was a viable site, in his opinion, that was the best recommendation to bring forward to the Council.

Mr. Pombier remarked that he did not want to come back to the Council and request additional funding, but preferred to deliver a building that the Council requested in the bond for the amount of money that he was given to work with. He said that he was limited by that dollar amount and added that he generally does not make a habit of coming back to the Council to seek additional funding.

Committeemember Glover stated the opinion that staff was asking the Committee to rubber stamp something that is already a foregone conclusion and that they did not really care about the Committee's input.

Committeemember Kavanaugh commented that staff provided him significant documentation relative to the various sites that were reviewed and considered. He voiced concern that before this matter came back to the Council a few months ago, "the race car was at the finish line." He stated that some earlier direction and input from the Committee and the full Council may have been helpful. He noted that in terms of doing major projects such as this, the Council has encouraged staff to be innovative and "not just look at the easy answer, but look at the answer that gives the best rate of return to the City overall." He cited, for instance, projects such as Benedictine University, the Wilkes Building and the adaptive reuse of facilities that can serve multiple functions and purposes.

Committeemember Kavanaugh further remarked that one of the hallmarks of what this Council has done over the past few years is to not be bound by what staff is bound by and, when asked in a timely way, to give direction to staff to be innovative and creative. He stated that although he does not fault staff's analysis with respect to the City-owned sites, from his perspective, he is looking for a site that would provide a greater return to the community as a whole and to be in a location that, long term, could serve well as a regional communications center.

Committeemember Kavanaugh also indicated that he considered the bond money as part of the financing package for the MRDC, but never believed it was the total cap. He stated that since 2008, City staff has worked with the federal government and other entities and received other monies to combine and make projects even better and have a multiplier effect. He clarified that he was not suggesting that the recommended site could not be a regional location, especially with the Loop 202 access, but suggested that other sites might have lent themselves better. He added that he was not prepared to support any recommendations at this time.

Committeemember Glover said that he knows if the Committee asked staff to consider more sites in west Mesa or elsewhere, they would say that time is a factor, which he completely understands. He noted, however, that his greatest frustration is that if staff had actually listened

to the Council's directives before and actually asked for their direction, such direction could have been provided along the way rather than "dumping it on our laps right now." He acknowledged that there is an issue with respect to time, but suggested that staff not use that reason as "a crutch."

Chairman Finter indicated that City Clerk Dee Ann Mickelsen provided him the previous minutes associated with this project. He stated that when the Council was discussing various public safety bond issues, the MFMD came to the Council and reported that they had some funding needs. He explained that at that time, the Council suggested that staff consider some innovative ideas with respect to reuse and redevelopment. He also noted that it was his understanding that the criteria have been "crystal clear." He remarked that there has been some pressure since a portion of the $16 million has already been spent for other vital projects, which has now decreased the funding for the MRDC to $13.5 million.

Chairman Finter further commented that with respect to staff's recommended site, he would suggest that an issue that has not been considered is the 100 to 130-foot high tower. He said that in reviewing a map of the proposed site, on the other side of a nearby church are $600,000 to $800,000 homes. He noted that the property owners' field of view of Red Mountain would be significantly impacted by the tower. He suggested that perhaps it would be appropriate for staff to conduct a balloon test of the tower, similar to what the City does with respect to Freeway Monument Signs, in an effort to prevent complaints from those residents in the future.

Chairman Finter acknowledged that staff has recommended a great site and concurred that the option should remain "on the table" for consideration. He also suggested that any opportunity for the City to establish a public safety presence, such as the MRDC, in a blighted area would be worth "spending some money." He added that a multiplier effect would be created for the same dollars that are spent.

Chairman Finter made the suggestion that staff bring back some other options for the Committee to consider, but urged that it occur in a rapid manner. He noted that dragging out this process for months and months is not an option.

Committeemember Glover said that he would add one qualifier, which is that the options do not necessarily need to be City-owned properties. He further commented that if another viable property is selected, staff should present it to the Council who, in turn, will make the decision as to whether it is worth purchasing or not.

Mr. Pombier clarified that when Chairman Finter urged that staff bring back options in a rapid manner, he inquired what type of timeframe the Committee was considering.

Chairman Finter stated that from the time that requests are made by any Councilmember, he would hope that it would take no longer than a month for staff to bring back options.

Mr. Pombier responded that with respect to some of the locations that are not listed for sale, it will take time for staff to make contact, obtain the necessary information and purchase a site for a reasonable cost. He expressed concern that he cannot deliver what the Committee wants in two to four weeks on each site.

Chairman Finter suggested that staff utilize the model process that was implemented when the City purchased the land for the Fiesta District Police Substation. He stated that particular site acquisition saved the City more than $5 million which, in turn, was used for the construction of the facility.

Ms. Huning responded that she would propose that staff take the following steps: identify three to five sites around the City; be given a period of time to assign some costs; consider the magnitude of costs so that the Committee is apprised of the various ranges; that in order to accomplish that task, the Real Estate Manager would work with the broker to determine such costs, as well as establish a random order of magnitude as to the cost of each site; and that she would anticipate that staff's efforts could be completed within 30 days in order to accommodate the Committee's wishes.

Committeemember Kavanaugh suggested that one of the areas of partnership that staff might want to explore is with Mesa Community College (MCC). He stated that the campus is largely built out and indicated that there are areas on the campus that could perhaps provide opportunities for a building like the MRDC. He further commented that a shared use or a lease type of arrangement could create partnership opportunities for instruction and other college uses. He added that there may be other public properties that might offer opportunities in which parcels are under used or not used.

Ms. Huning stated that if any of the Committeemembers have suggestions, she would be more than willing to listen.

Chairman Finter commented that if the City does a preliminary appraisal of a particular property, he voiced concern that it might be "a deal killer" before further research can be conducted. He suggested that staff not discount the possibility of following a similar process as was done with the Fiesta District Police Substation. He said that what may be perceived as a deal killer for someone, may just be the cost of doing business in order to achieve some greater purpose.

Chairman Finter remarked that he would hope the minutes reflect that the Committee would like a timeframe for staff to follow up with the Committee. He stated that he would make himself available, as he has in the past, to drive through potential sites, as no doubt the other Councilmembers will as well.

Chairman Finter noted that he did not believe that someone could place enough real value to the idea of what the City accomplished at Benedictine University and stated that in his opinion, similar projects could be accomplished elsewhere. He further directed Mr. Pombier to identify funding sources that may be available in order to achieve this project. He cited, for example, that on occasion when the City has sold real estate, the proceeds have been placed into a real estate development fund, which has been used at Benedictine University and other projects.

Chairman Finter, in addition, remarked that this project is not just about public safety, but also economic development and improving the community. He explained that although the MRDC would not generate any new jobs or economic development opportunities, by removing an overabundance of vacant retail space would actually create a multiplier effect. He also suggested that with the extraordinary amount of money that the City has been investing along Southern Avenue, the City could achieve a compounding effect by looking at some of the reuse/redevelopment sites in the area.

Mr. Pombier clarified that with the Chairman's permission, staff will plan on conducting a Public Safety Committee meeting within a five to six week time range and bring back additional options for the Committee's consideration.

Chairman Finter said that in the meantime, he would hope that staff would be willing to meet with the Committee, as well as the other Councilmembers. He stated that this issue was brought forward since the Committeemembers felt as though they were unable to offer feedback in the site selection process for the MRDC. He asked if there was anything that the Committee could do to assist staff in ensuring that a similar scenario does not occur in the future.

Mr. Wilkins inquired whether the Committee would prefer that staff consider sites Citywide or in a particular area of the community; whether they would prefer that staff renovate an existing building or find a site that could be demolished and start from scratch. He stated that there are many factors that staff must consider, all of which can increase the budget for the project. He added that as long as everyone is aware of such factors, staff would endeavor to meet the Committee's wishes.

Chairman Finter remarked that the Committee does, in fact, understand the factors that can increase the budget for the MRDC. He noted, however, that what they do not understand are the 30% contingency funds, which will be challenged at a later date, or taking $2.5 million "off the top" of the project costs.

Chief Beck stated that he was encouraged by the level of interest that the Committee has taken with respect to this issue. He noted that in his opinion, the Committee has given staff the direction they need in order to get on the right track. He explained that with regard to the development of the project, staff is seeking feedback from the Committee concerning the scope of the project.

Chief Beck reported that since the Public Safety Bond Election and since the bond monies became available, several different needs have been identified that have piggybacked on this project. He cited, for example, building the facility to include: a Public Safety Police/Fire Communications Center; an EOC; and a facility for Communications or Information Technology. He acknowledged that there are not enough dollars available to fund all of those projects. He further remarked that with that being said, if there was a campus approach to this project, what would the Committee believe is the primary purpose of the facility.

Chief Beck indicated that in his opinion, the primary purpose of the project would be to develop, first and foremost, a regional Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Communications facility. He stated that before staff moves forward to research potential sites, he inquired what the Committee would envision as an appropriate size for the property and what services should be included at the facility.

Committeemember Glover concurred with Chief Beck's vision for the facility. He stated that the City's current EOC is approximately 800 square feet and noted that the MFMD was asking that the area be expanded to an estimated 8,000 square feet. He acknowledged that the MFMD was attempting to create expansive and regional models, but questioned whether it was possible to downsize and leave room to build on later. He inquired whether, for the time being, it was necessary for the EOC to be that large.

Chief Hayes responded that staff initially met with all of the end users and asked what would be the best use, looking at what would be a 30 to 40 year building. She reported that what staff identified early on was that the EOC, which is actually closer to 2,000 square feet, is, for all intents and purposes, empty space that goes unused 99% of the time. She stated that when staff met with the architects and end users, they attempted to identify space that could be used virtually every day. She also commented that the regional EOC approach would allow staff to conduct training. She clarified that the proposed square footage included not only EOC space, but also additional area that would allow ITD to conduct classes, as well as Fire and EMS to conduct ITD-specific classes and educational classes out of the EOC. She added that the square footage also included support space around the EOC for breakout rooms, a policy group room and a kitchen area, which could be used during an emergency event that lasted for a period of time.

Responding to a question from Committeemember Glover, Commander Hagar clarified that to the best of his memory, the life span of the Fiesta District Police Substation is approximately 30 years. He noted, however, that he would be happy to research the matter further and provide that information to Committeemember Glover.

Chairman Finter stated that the directive from the Council to staff is as follows: Any future reference to this project should read “Mesa Fire and Medical Regional Dispatch and EOC.” He also made the suggestion that with respect to a campus setting, he could envision the first wing including the Mesa Fire and Medical Regional Dispatch and EOC; the central area could be shared; and eventually through a future bond proposal or other funding efforts, a campus build-out that would include the MPD.

Chairman Finter reiterated that the primary goal, which was conveyed to the citizens of Mesa during the bond election, is the Mesa Fire and Medical Regional Dispatch and EOC. He cautioned that no one should deviate from such a priority. He also noted that the Council wants the facility to be built in a manner as described to Mesa voters; that the project not be deferred until some later time in the future; and that the Council’s credibility is on the line with respect to this matter. He also commented that if staff is not able to accomplish the goals outlined above, the proposed site is an excellent location and expressed appreciation to staff for their professionalism in this regard. He urged staff to give it one more solid and genuine effort to achieve this important goal.

Committeemember Kavanaugh suggested that staff’s mindset should be to go back to 2009 when creativity was at its highest and innovation was at the forefront; that there were limited funds and limited time; that the ideas that staff created were truly remarkable; and that the City is seeing the benefit of such innovative projects on a nationwide basis. He concurred that staff’s recommended site is a viable option, but expressed confidence that staff has the capacity to surprise the Council, in a good way, with other options.

Chairman Finter restated that this item will be revisited at the next Public Safety Committee meeting. He stressed the fact that all of the Councilmembers were available to offer their input and feedback. He added that he looked forward to seeing staff’s innovative ideas brought forward.

Chairman Finter thanked staff for their efforts and hard work.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 2nd day of March, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

pag
(attachments – 2)

PHOTO SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION TO MESA CITY COUNCIL

March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

The Traffic Safety Program Works!

- Mesa Residents are learning better driving habits
- Crashes have been reduced substantially compared to neighboring cities

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

The Traffic Safety Program Addresses these Situations



March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Council Directives

Directive 1 - Implement a system to ensure improvements in the program

Directive 2 - Research the expansion of school zone cameras

Directive 3 - Eliminate the photo enforcement vans

Directive 4 - Reinvest funds back into the Photo Safety Plan

Directive 5 - Present a formal City Council program review in one year (around March, 2015)

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Council Directives

Directive 1 - Implement a system to ensure improvements in the program.

- Established Photo Safety Steering Committee – Functioning, four meetings in last year
- Update MPD Policy (TRF 2.3 & TRF 2.8) – Complete
- Complaint tracking and auditing – Established, zero complaints since vans eliminated
- Standardized statistical reporting through Transportation – Complete
- Photo Safety Part of an overall 3 E's Traffic Safety Plan
  - Engineering
  - Enforcement
  - Education
- Utilize Social Media

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Council Directives

Directive 1 - Implement a system to ensure improvements in the program

Social media:

Mesa PD Facebook/Twitter *DON'T DRIVE DRUNK! DON'T RUN RED LIGHTS!"*
14,936 Views since November



Red Light PSA – Mesa Channel 11/
YOUTUBE



Mesa PD Facebook/Twitter *DON'T RUN RED LIGHTS!!" 64,064 Views since October*



Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Mesa's Traffic/Photo Safety Program is a Cooperative Effort



Participating Departments and Agencies:

- Engineering
- Transportation
- Police
- American Traffic Solutions (ATS)
- Courts
- City Manager's Office
- PIO
- Purchasing/Procurement
- Mesa Residents
- Mesa and Gilbert Public Schools
  - Fully supports the program
  - Sends out 63,000 notices to parents each Fall



March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Council Directives

Directive 2 - Research the expansion of school zone cameras

- Established partnership w/Mesa Schools and Gilbert Schools - Complete
- Alternative school zones - speed studies complete
  - Porter Elementary (1300 S. Lindsay) installation underway
  - Red Mountain HS – next location
  - Mountain View HS – second location
  - Westwood HS - possible third location
  - Highland JHS (road re-design, under 2nd review)
  - Dobson HS (road design not compatible)



Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Council Directives

Directive 3 - Eliminated the photo enforcement vans

- Completed as of 03/01/2014
- Vans re-purposed into Fleet



Photo: eastvalleytribune.com

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Council Directives

Directive 4 - Reinvest funds back into the Photo Safety Plan

Speed Trailers (Education & Validation)



Moving Radar Program (Enforcement)



Transportation (Education)



March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

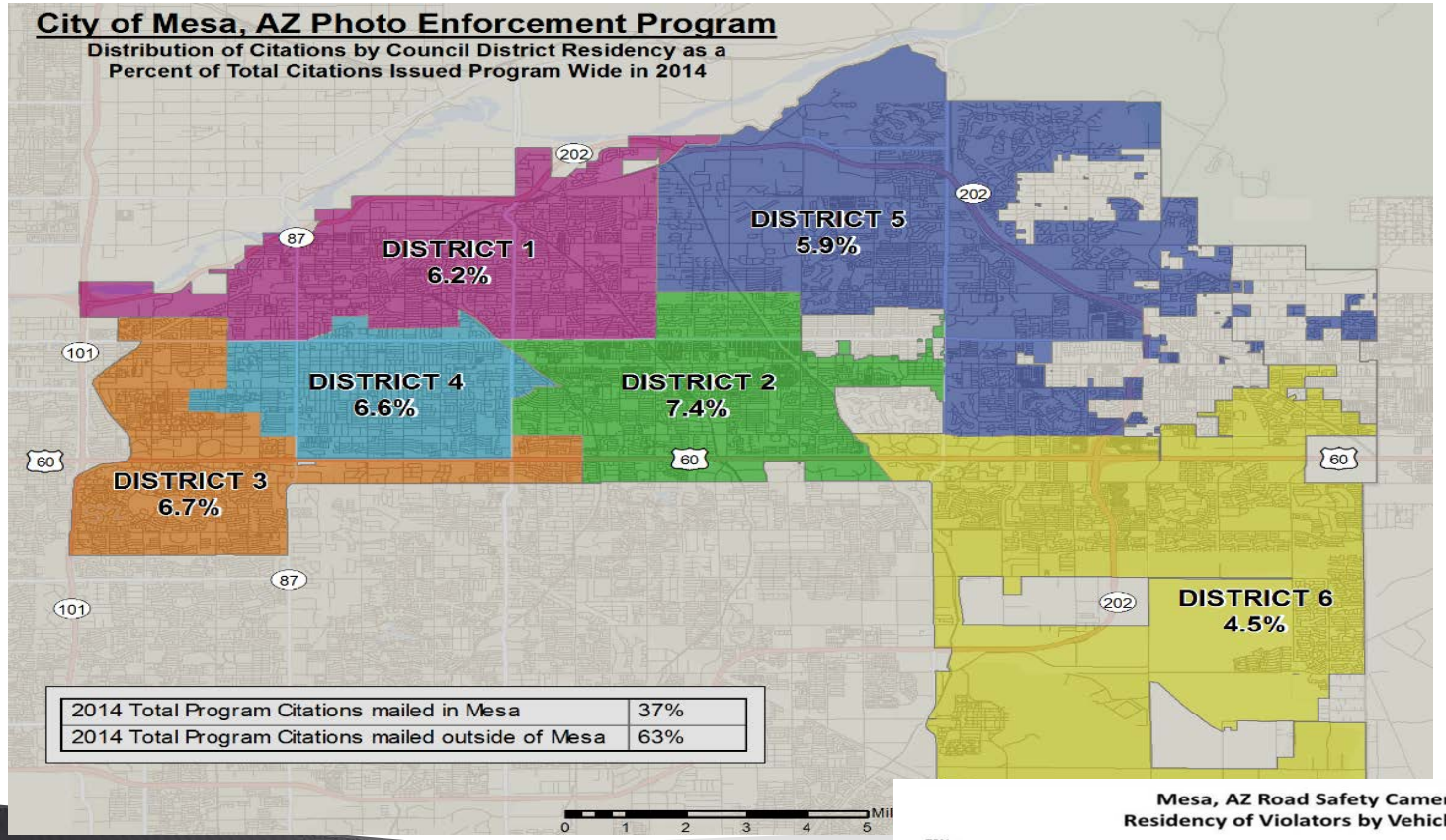
Council Directives

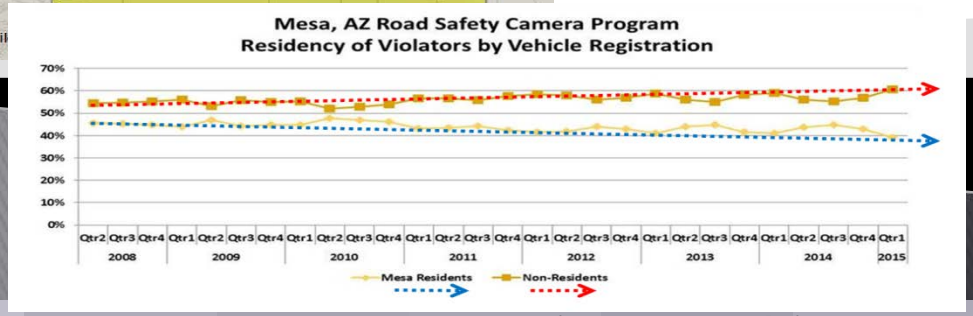
Directive 5 - Present a formal City Council program review in one year

- Addressed directives in this presentation
- Current photo safety program overview
  - Part of the Enforcement portion of the Traffic Safety Program
  - 20 photo safety intersections and 5 school zones
  - Cooperative effort
  - Results

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Citation Summary- City Residency





March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

esults – Drivers are traveling slower through school zones

85th percentile school zone speeds for motorists were reduced an average of 8.1 mph during school hours & 4.2 mph after school hours

SCHOOL ZONE	(85%) SPEED BEFORE INSTALL		(85%) SPEED AFTER PHOTO CAMERAS AND DRIVER FEEDBACK FLASHERS INSTALLED (2014 Data)		REDUCTION IN (85%) SPEEDS	
	SCHOOL HOURS (35 mph)	AFTER SCHOOL HOURS (45 mph)	SCHOOL HOURS (35 mph)	AFTER SCHOOL HOURS (45 mph)	SCHOOL HOURS (35 mph)	AFTER SCHOOL HOURS (45 mph)
Franklin @ Brimhall	43.5	50.5	34.9	46.7	-8.6 mph	- 3.8 mph
Freemont JHS	44.6	50.0	36.8	44.8	-7.8 mph	-5.2 mph
Mesa HS	42.0	45.4	34.5	42.0	-7.5 mph	-3.4 mph
Rhodes JHS	46.6	48.2	36.8	45.3	-9.8 mph	-2.9 mph
Skyline HS	44.0	51.9	37.1	46.3	-6.9 mph	-5.6 mph
AVERAGE					-8.1 mph	-4.2 mph

Source: Speed Study Data City of Mesa Transportation Department

March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

esults – Mesa Residents are Applying the Learning Citywide

Citywide Comparison of Change of Average Annual Crashes Before* and After** ATS Photo Safety was Installed in Mesa

Intersection	% Change
Active Photo Enforcement	**-30.8**
Inactive Photo Enforcement	**-35.7**
Comparison locations ***	**-27.9**
Citywide	**-37.5**

* 2001 to 2005
** 2007 to 2013
****Comparison locations are selected signalized intersections where photo enforcement has not been installed characteristics are similar to photo enforcement locations*

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Results – Mesa's Traffic Safety Program is a Success!

Regional Comparison of Change of Average Annual Crashes Before* and After** ATS Photo Safety was Installed in Mesa

AGENCY	% CHANGE
Mesa	-37.5
Phoenix	-20.2
Arizona	-16.6
Scottsdale	-14.5
Maricopa County	-14.4
Tempe	-14.3
Chandler	-8.8
Glendale	-2.9
Gilbert	+25.3

*2001 to 2005
**2007 to 2013

March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events

Thank You

March 2, 2015

Lieutenant Aaron Spicer
Mesa Police Department
Metro Programs and Special Events



Public Safety Committee

Mesa Regional Dispatch Center
CP0340

March 2, 2015

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March 2, 2015
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Mesa Regional Dispatch Center

Presentation Outline

- Summary of Site Selection Process
- Preferred Site Recommendation
- Seek Committee's Input and Concurrence

Public Safety
March 2, 2015
Attachment 2
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2013 Public Safety Bond Election

Approved $16M in bonds for a new Dispatch & Communications Center

- Space in existing facility limited
- Room for expansion needed
- Redundancy & resiliency needed



Public Safety
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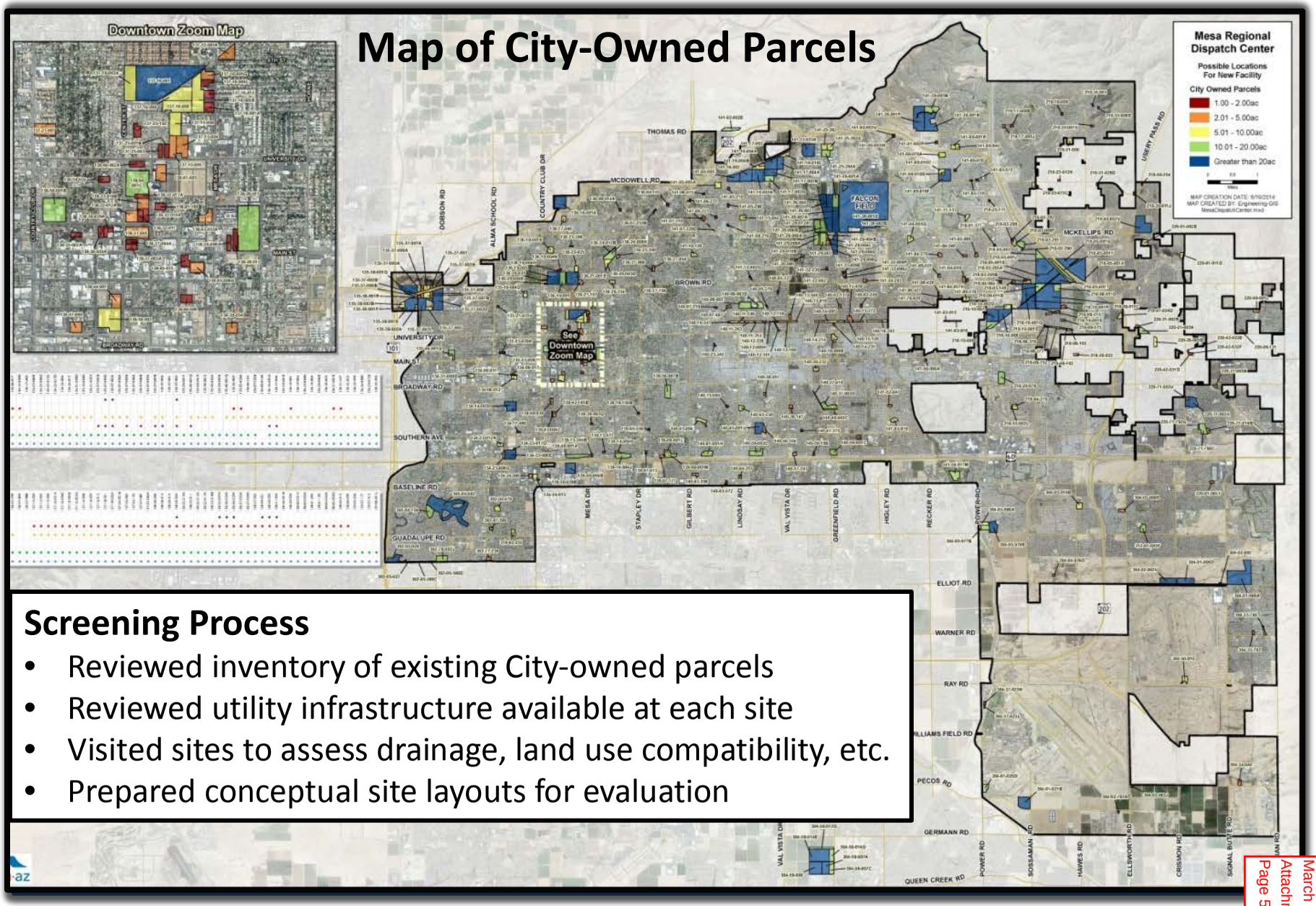
Summary of Site Selection Process

Site Evaluation Criteria

- Adequate Parcel Size
- Ease of Access
- Land Use Compatibility
- Existing Utility and Roadway Infrastructure
- Redundancy/Resiliency
- Review of Existing Site Conditions

Public Safety
March 2, 2015
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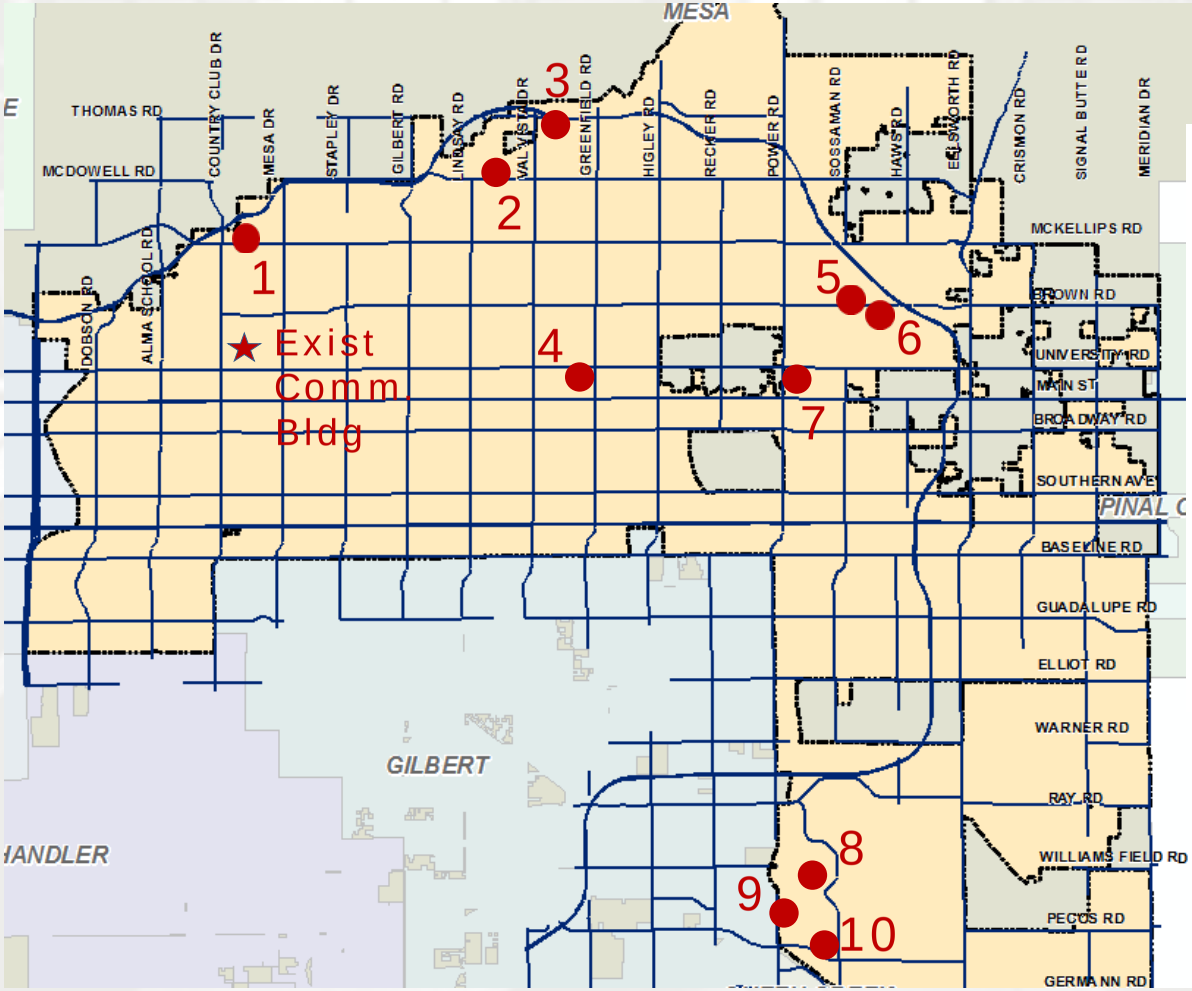
Map of City-Owned Parcels



Screening Process

- Reviewed inventory of existing City-owned parcels
- Reviewed utility infrastructure available at each site
- Visited sites to assess drainage, land use compatibility, etc.
- Prepared conceptual site layouts for evaluation

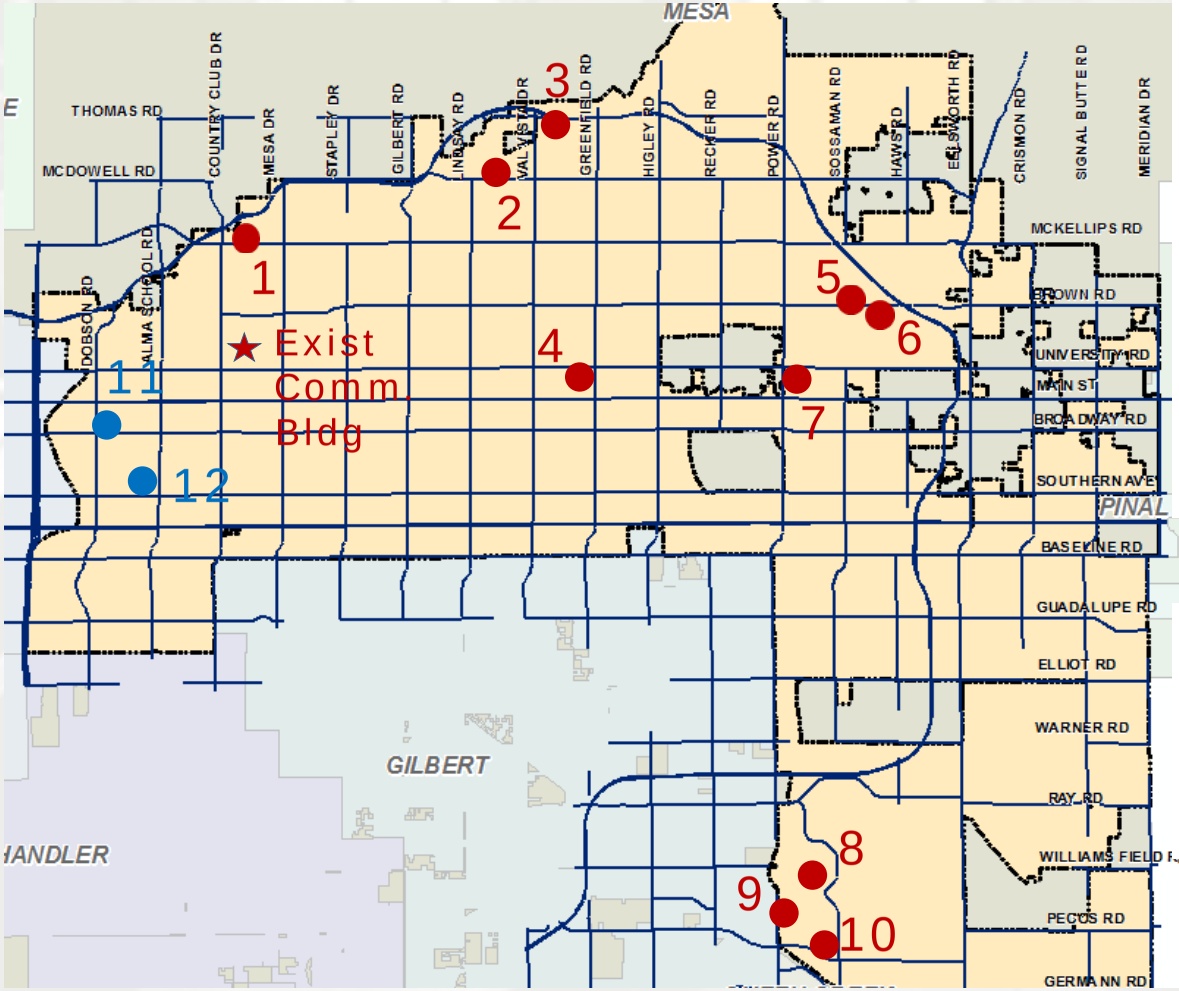
Sites Selected for Review



City Owned Sites

1. SWC Center and 202
2. NEC 32nd and McDowell (near Val Vista Water Treatment Plant)
3. Public Safety Training Facility
4. Red Mountain Police Sub-Station
5. NEC Brown and Sossaman
6. SWC Brown and 80th Street
7. SEC Adobe and Power (Red Mountain Library)
8. SWC Utah and Sossaman
9. SEC Old Pecos and Power
10. NWC Pecos and Sossaman

Sites Selected for Review



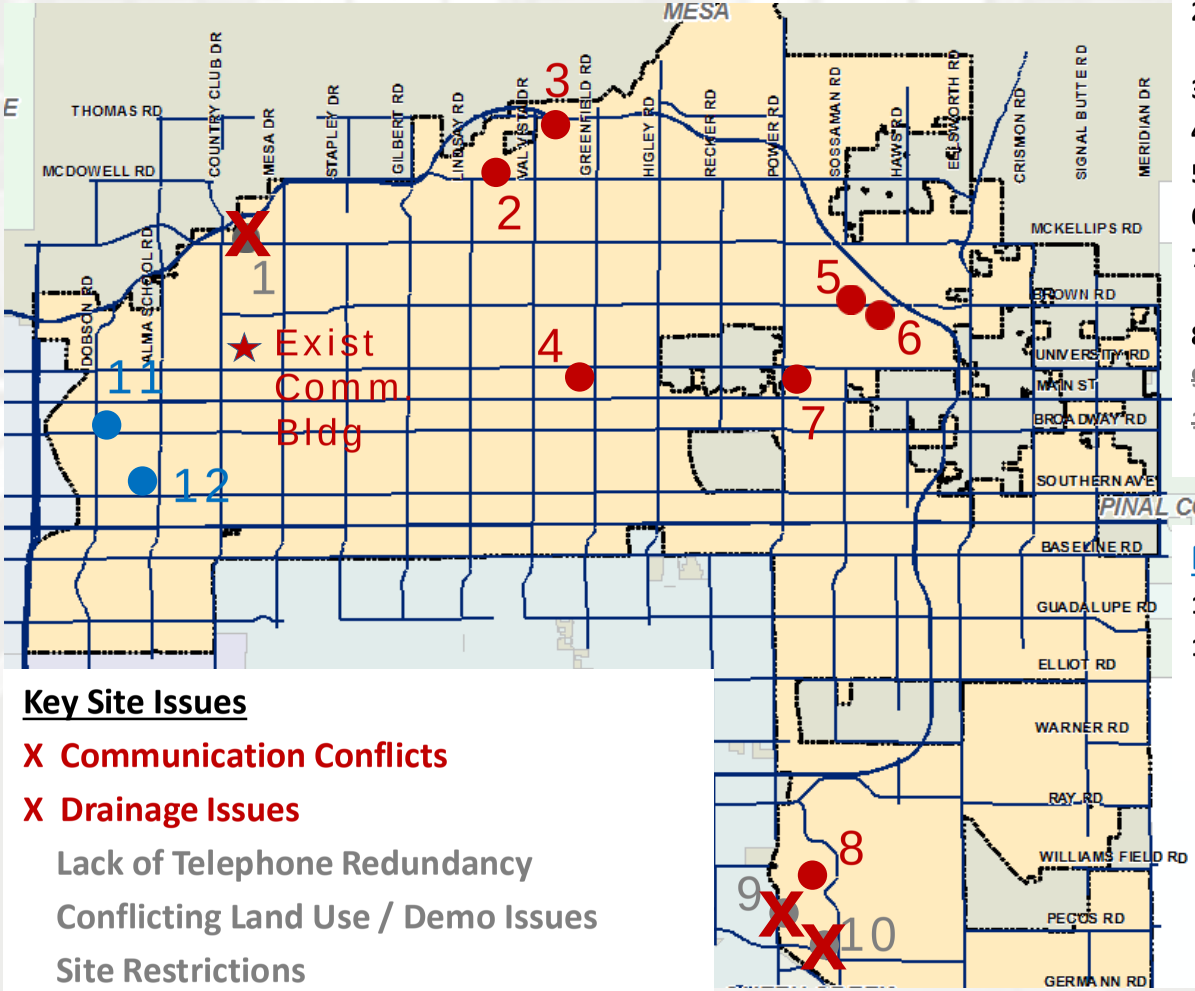
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10. NWC Pecos and Sossaman

Non-City Owned Sites

11. NEC Dobson and Broadway
12. NWC Alma School and Southern

Sites Selected for Review



City Owned Sites

~~1. SWC Center and 202~~

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Key Site Issues

X Communication Conflicts

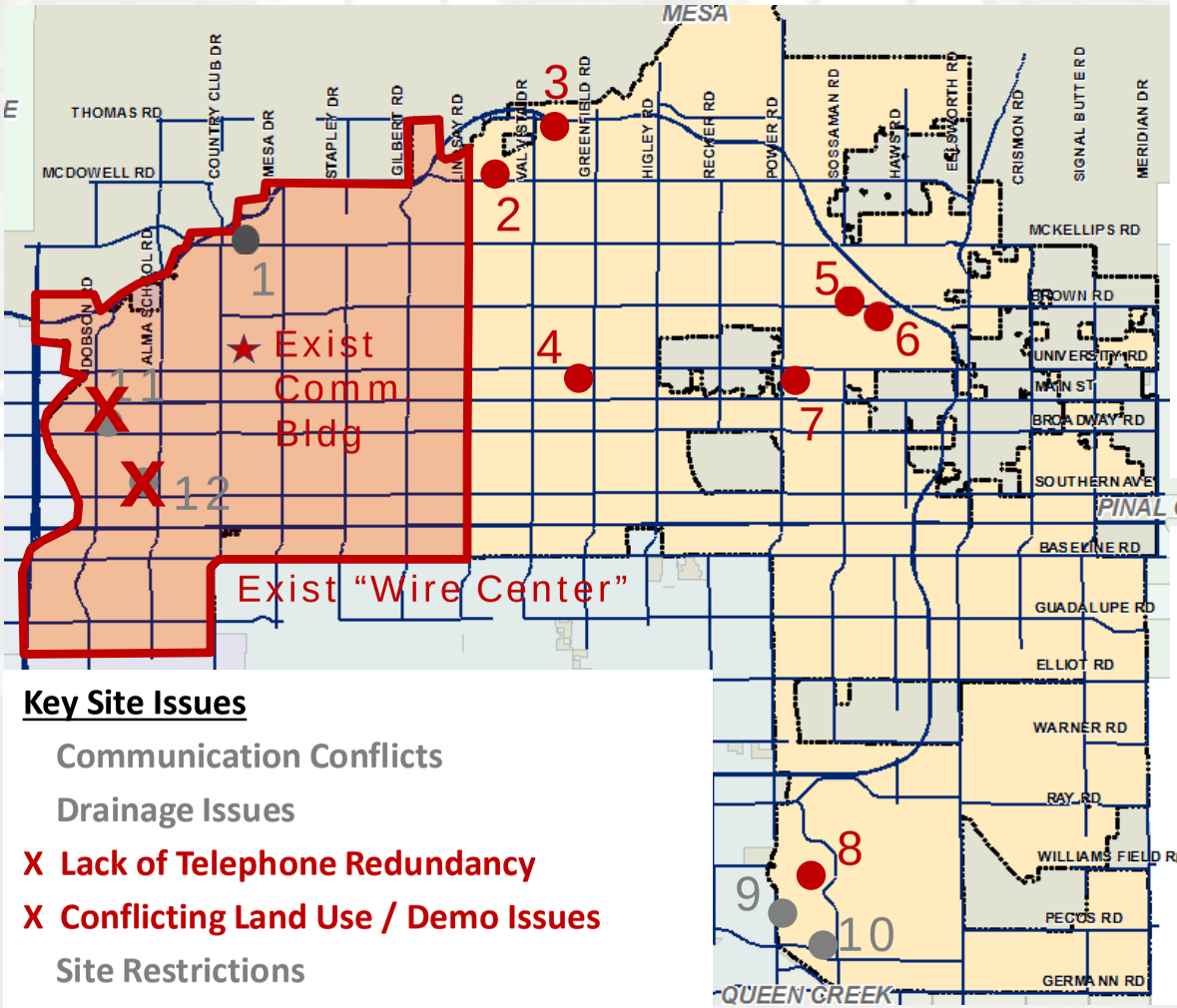
X Drainage Issues

Lack of Telephone Redundancy

Conflicting Land Use / Demo Issues

Site Restrictions

Sites Selected for Review



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Non-City Owned Sites

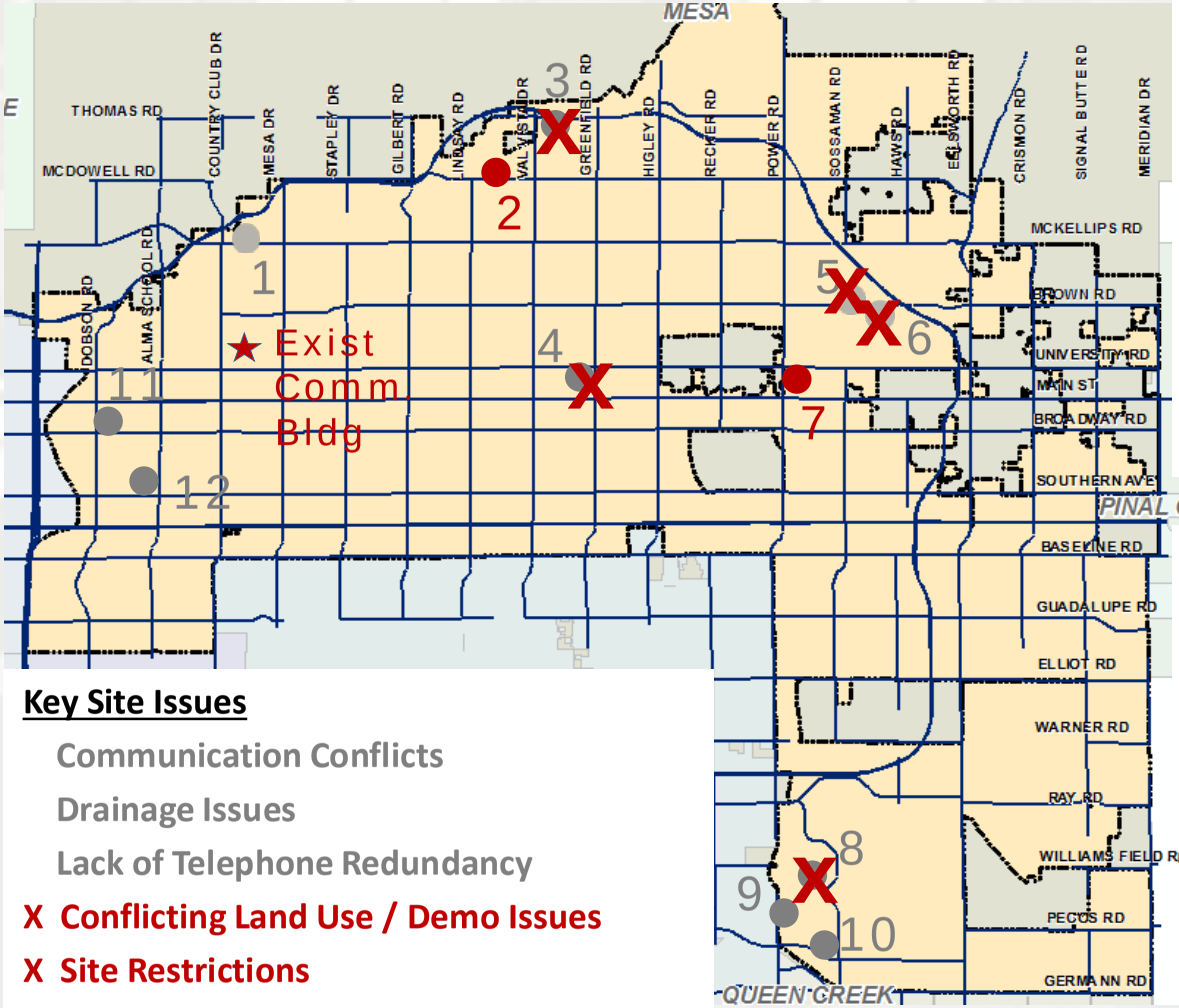
11. ~~NEC Dobson and Broadway~~
12. ~~NWC Alma School and Southern~~

Key Site Issues

- Communication Conflicts
- Drainage Issues
- X Lack of Telephone Redundancy
- X Conflicting Land Use / Demo Issues
- Site Restrictions

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Sites Selected for Review



City Owned Sites

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Key Site Issues

Communication Conflicts

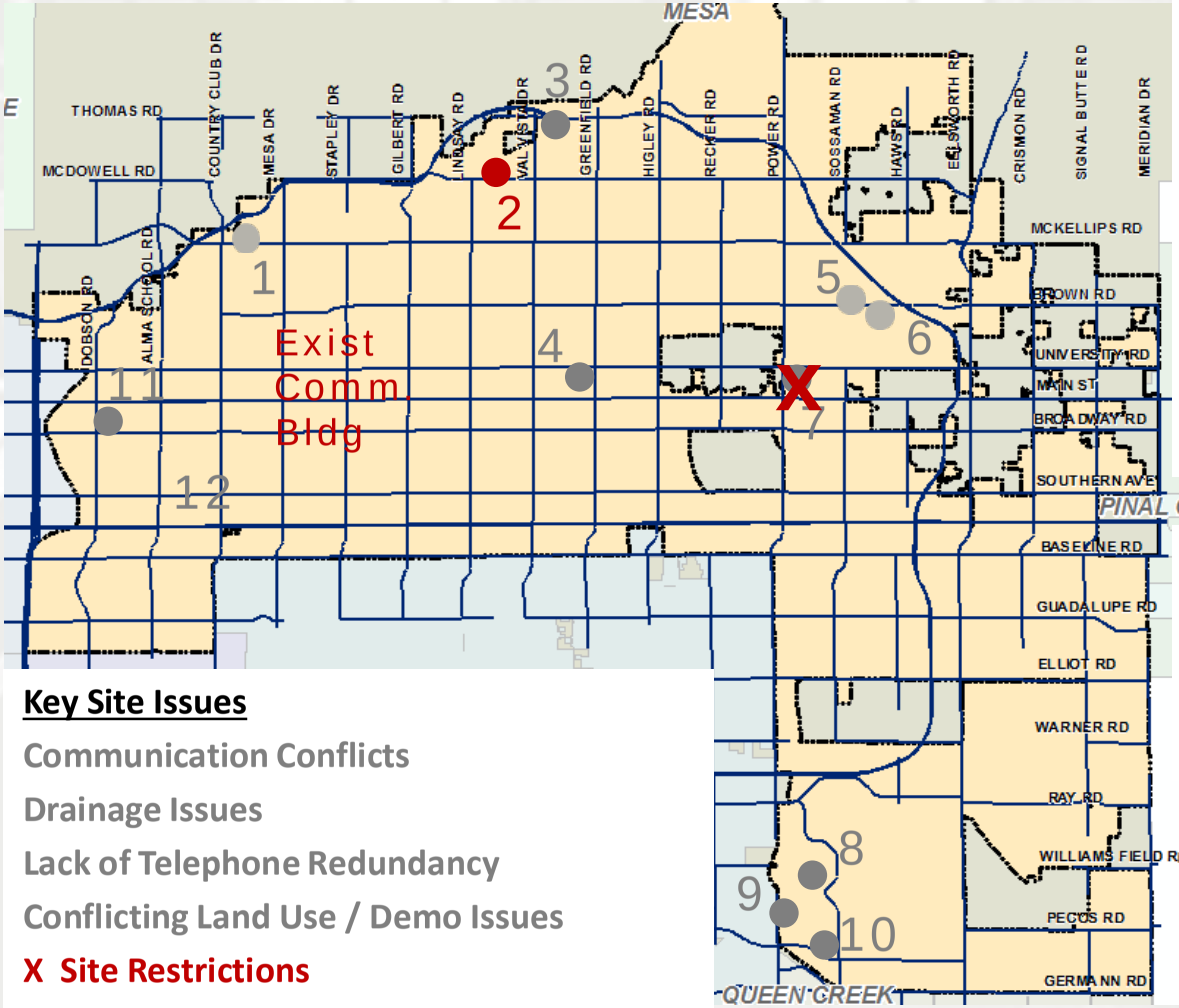
Drainage Issues

Lack of Telephone Redundancy

X Conflicting Land Use / Demo Issues

X Site Restrictions

Sites Selected for Review



City Owned Sites

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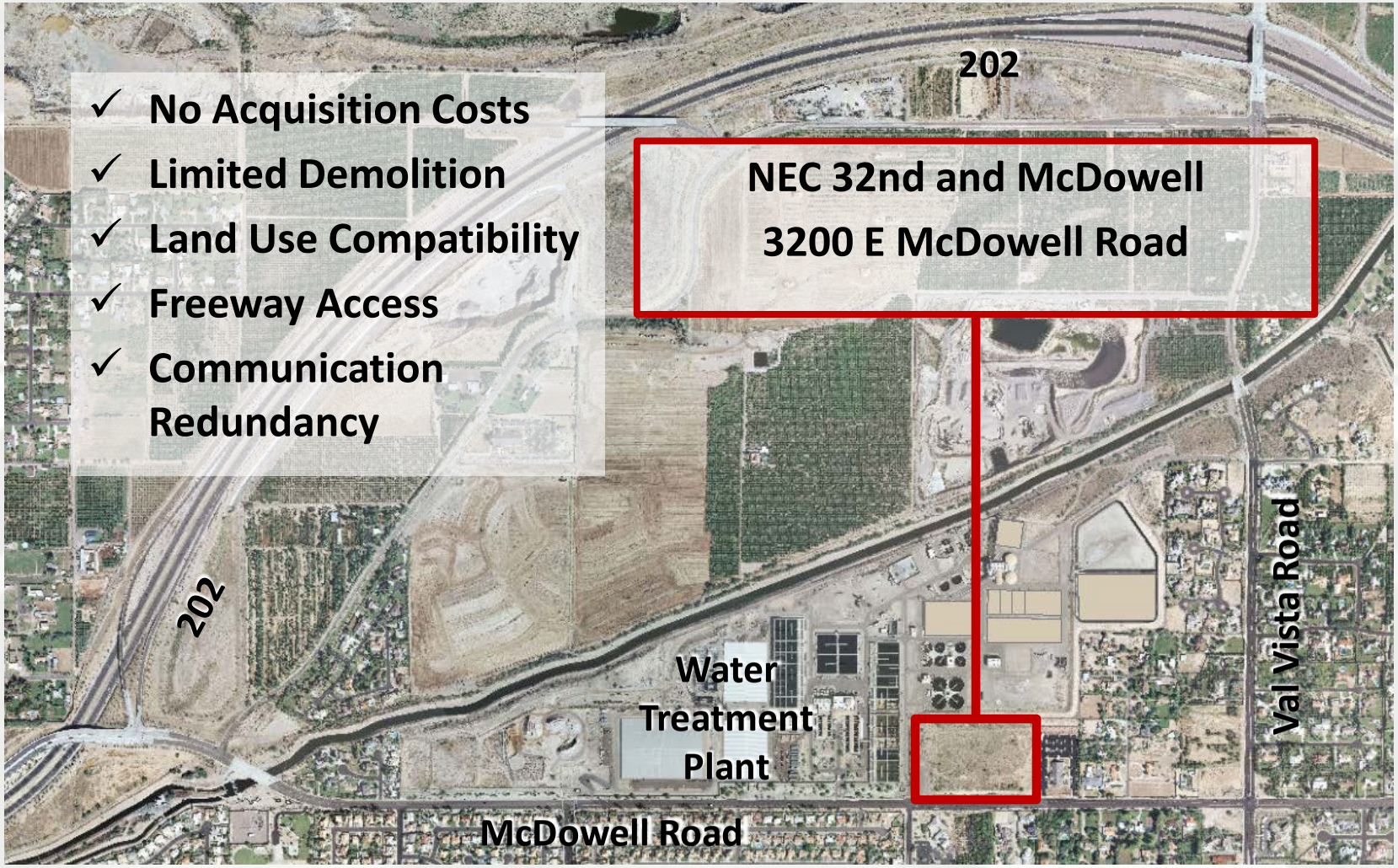
Drainage Issues

Lack of Telephone Redundancy

Conflicting Land Use / Demo Issues

X Site Restrictions

Site Recommendation



Public Safety
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NEC 32nd and McDowell Road



- Existing Offsite Street Improvements
- Utilities and Communication Infrastructure Available



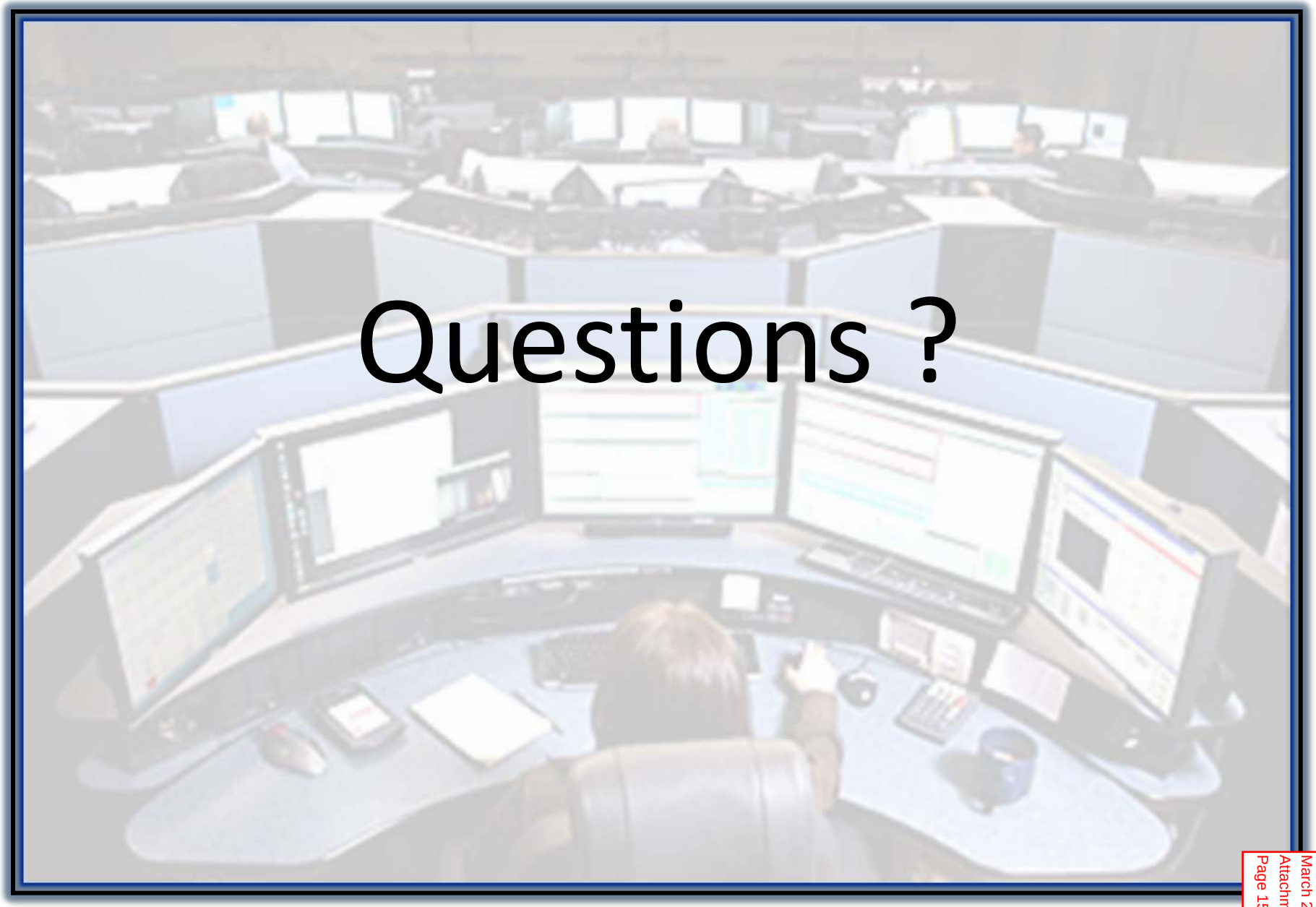
- No Major Drainage Issues

Public Safety
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Conceptual Site Plan-3200 E. McDowell Road



- 13.6 Acres Available
- Large Lot Available for Phased Development



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