

## **Mayor Becker Unveils Public Safety Complex Location as Part of Larger Vision for ‘Civic Campus’**

### *Public Conversation about Plans for Project Begins Today*

SALT LAKE CITY – Thursday, May 7, 2009 – Mayor Ralph Becker joined by city officials and public safety leaders today debuted a proposed location for a new Public Safety Complex in the Capital City, as part of a larger vision to create a “civic campus” that stretches from the Matheson Courthouse on State Street to a new public safety complex and civic plaza on the east side of 300 East, between 400 and 500 south.

In making the announcement, Mayor Becker transmitted a formal proposal to the City Council with a significantly reduced plan, streamlined from a proposal put before voters in 2007 with a price tag of nearly \$200 million that failed by fewer than 300 votes. The new proposal transmittal today included a needs analysis for a dramatically more efficient new public safety facility and emergency operations center.

The City currently does not have an emergency operations center and its existing public safety building is not likely to withstand a major earthquake, something emergency preparedness officials nationwide believes is imminent in Salt Lake City, Utah.

At the press conference today, the Mayor explained this is the beginning of a public process to be led by the City Council and Administration, to determine exactly where the facilities should be built within the east end of the “civic campus” and at what cost – citing early cost estimates which show a possible difference of as much as \$20 million depending where on the east side of the ‘civic campus’ the complex is constructed.

Those public conversation will help inform both the final project plans and the price tag for a new public safety bond that the Mayor would like to see go to voters this November. The hope is to have the final details for the plans determined by late June. This will give voters many months to become intimately familiar with the plans before a November election, if approved by the City Council.

The Mayor also discussed the possibilities currently being explored for partnering with other government entities to save money on law enforcement efforts and emergency facilities that could be shared; such as a shared evidence facility with multiple municipalities or a possible partnership with the State of Utah to build a joint emergency operation facility. Such scenarios could create tremendous efficiencies and economies of scale which in turn would save taxpayers money.

“Today marks the first step toward giving the public, something they’ve been telling us they want and something we all know we need, a new public safety building and emergency operations facility. The ‘civic campus’ will allow our residents and businesses to access municipal services in one place and make doing city business across departments and jurisdictions even more effective.” remarked Mayor Becker.

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