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## **City Leaders Highlight Need for New Public Safety Building and Dedicated Emergency Operations Center Today**

*Concern Grows Over Homeland Security Designation of Salt Lake as One of 62 U.S.  
Cities at High Risk for Natural or Man-Made Disaster*

**SALT LAKE CITY** - Mayor Ralph Becker and City Council Chair Carlton Christensen gathered today with Salt Lake City residents, business owners, community leaders and law enforcement officials to highlight the need for a new Public Safety Building and a dedicated Emergency Operations Center. The event marked the beginning of the City's formal effort to educate Salt Lake City voters about Proposition 1, a bond proposal that would allocate \$125 million from general obligation funds to build a Public Safety Building and Emergency Operations Center.

Proposition 1 is \$67 million less than a bond narrowly rejected by voters in 2007. Since that time, the federal Homeland Security department designated Salt Lake as one of the nation's 62 cities at highest risk for probability of a natural or man-made disaster as part of its Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI).

"Our need for these facilities is urgent and growing daily. The Homeland Security designation adds to the growing number of factors which tell us Salt Lake City must have the facilities our first responders need in order to protect the community if disaster strikes and allow us to keep the City running during the recovery process following an emergency," explained Mayor Ralph Becker.

Salt Lake City's existing Public Safety Building is not functionally survivable in the event of a major natural or man-made disaster such as an earthquake or bombing and the city does not have a dedicated Emergency Operations Center.

### **Facts on Current Public Safety Building:**

- Existing PSB was built in 1957 designed to house 275 employees but now houses 500 police and fire employees, violating minimum industry space standards.

- The building also accommodates public areas and associated storage, making it even more cramped and problematic for first responders and their leaders who are housed there.
- Water damage, sewage leaks, elevator breakdowns and other ongoing problems are the norm for building employees and management.
- Evidence storage areas are at risk of flooding, which could cause potential damage to evidence being accumulated on active police cases. As a result the police could lose criminal cases because of damaged evidence
- Emergency responders have reported being stuck in broken elevators while en route to an emergency.
- The existing building is costly to maintain and wastes energy.
  - Maintenance, operation and utility costs for the current facility are over \$650,000

annually (approximately 70 percent per square foot higher than a comparable modern building without LEED specifications).

- Maintenance and operating costs are estimated to drop approximately 21 percent from \$3.72 per square foot in the existing Public Safety Building to \$2.96 per square foot in the new Public Safety Building.
- Public safety operations are currently separated between floors and an annex building. Studies show that police operations are far more effective when investigative resources are housed in one common area, or as few areas as possible, to enable detectives to share intelligence across disciplines.
- The current building does not have separate circulation corridors for victims and alleged perpetrators of crime. This can cause problems during a crime investigation and can be traumatic for crime victims.
- Renovating the old building would not address critical emergency management needs of the City.

**Facts on Salt Lake City’s lack of a dedicated Emergency Operations Center:**

- Salt Lake City does not have a dedicated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to manage and respond appropriately to emergencies.
- Salt Lake City’s Emergency Management Director recommends that ideally, the City would have both a dedicated Emergency Operations Center and a redundant emergency operations facility housed in the Public Safety Building as a precaution.
- Although temporary EOC facilities exist, they are likely to fail in the event of a major disaster and the City does not have a backup or redundant facility if that were to occur.

**Impact of the \$125 million bond:**

- Residential property valued at \$260,890: \$6.25 per month
- Commercial property valued at \$1 million: \$43.52 per month

**Details on the Proposed Emergency Operations Center:**

The City’s 911 services, police and fire dispatch, emergency operations and emergency management staff, and the Police Department’s Fusion Center will be housed in the Emergency Operations center. The Fusion Center is responsible for the management and flow of information from varied sources to the officers accountable for action during an emergency.

The Emergency Operations Center would be engineered to a high level of seismic security and be a base-isolated structure with no underground parking. In the event of an emergency, dispatch personnel would not need to relocate. The Emergency Operations Center would also be built to a 75 foot federal setback requirement. Following these federal guidelines will allow the City to remain eligible for future federal funding.

The City aggressively streamlined the original project to bring down the cost and gain as much efficiency as possible. Constructing two separate buildings (PSB and EOC) has been determined to be the most cost effective solution. With an eye toward reducing project costs, the City determined that more money could be saved per square foot because the Emergency Operations Center must be built to a higher standard (i.e. base isolated, without parking under the building and setback 75 feet from the street) in order to comply with federal Homeland Security requirements.

If the bond passes, completion of the project will take approximately 3-4 years to complete. For more information on Proposition 1 visit [www.slcgov.com/psb](http://www.slcgov.com/psb).

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