

NEWS RELEASE: Aug. 8, 2011

¼-cent tax proposal requested by Safety & Justice Roundtable

The Safety & Justice Roundtable unanimously voted today to recommend that the Greene County Commission place a ¼-cent Law Enforcement Sales Tax proposal on the November ballot.

The Roundtable met this afternoon to review a list of funding priorities and a cost analysis to address insufficiencies in the community's public safety and criminal justice system. The Roundtable requested this list July 25, when the group met to hear a Two-Year Update on its recommendations for improving the public safety and criminal justice system. The Roundtable detailed these recommendations two years ago in its Final Report, which followed 18 months of study of the system.

The funding priorities, presented by Greene County Administrator Tim Smith and Springfield City Manager Greg Burris, outlined specific needs within the system, as well as three funding scenarios. The Roundtable discussed the scenarios and decided to ask the county commission to place a ¼-cent tax proposal on the November ballot.

The motion was made by Roundtable member Bob Cirtin, and seconded by Roundtable member Steve Ijames. The Roundtable voted unanimously in favor.

The County Commission was present at today's meeting. No date has yet been assigned for a discussion or hearing on this proposal. Aug. 30 is the deadline to submit a ballot proposal to the Greene County Clerk for the Nov. 8 General Election.

The Safety & Justice Roundtable Final Report and the Two-Year Update may be found on the Greene County homepage, www.greenecountymo.org.

For more information, call Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator, at 417-868-4873; or Mike Brothers, Co-Interim Director of the City of Springfield Department of Public Information, at 417-864-1119 or 417-894-9064.

###