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*In January 2023, the Village of Homer Glen Board voted to place two referendums/public questions on the April 4th, 2023, election ballot.*

*The following information is being provided to explain what these ballot questions are.*

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## *What is a Referendum/Public Question?*

*A referendum/public question is a direct vote by the electorate (residents) on a proposal, law, or political issue. This is in contrast to an issue being voted on by the Village board. The outcome of the vote may result in the adoption of a new policy or specific law, or the referendum may be only advisory. Referendums provide the opportunity for electorate (residents) involvement in the democratic process. These referendums/public questions allow voters to choose and, if successful, enact changes to laws and governance at the local and state levels.*

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## *What is a License Plate Reader (LPR)?*

*Automated license plate readers (LPRs) are high-speed, computer-controlled camera systems that are typically mounted on street poles, streetlights, highway overpasses, mobile trailers, or attached to police vehicles. LPRs automatically capture all license plate numbers that come into view, along with the location, date, and time.*

*Local law enforcement agencies have advised the Village of Homer Glen board that having LPR's within our community assist law enforcement to identify vehicles involved in crimes or use along with amber alerts.*

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### **Referendum/Public Question No. 1:**

**“Shall the Village of Homer Glen install and use License Plate Readers at public access roads designated by the Village Board to support law public safety agencies provided the data collected is confidential and is destroyed within thirty (30) days unless it is the subject matter of an ongoing investigation?”**

Some Village residents have expressed concern that the License Plate Reader cameras will result in an invasion of their privacy. LPR readers and their databases can ONLY be accessed by law enforcement officials. Village

of Homer Glen staff will not be able to access ANY information obtained by the readers. The data collected by these cameras is kept confidential and destroyed within thirty (30) days unless particular data is considered the subject of a formal “ongoing” investigation.

The License Plate Reader cameras will not be utilized for traffic violations. These cameras will not act as “red light” or “speed” cameras.

The Village of Homer Glen and local law enforcement are looking to place the License Plate Reader cameras at access points in the Village of Homer Glen.

**If the referendum is approved by the majority of the voters, the Village of Homer Glen will pursue bids for contracts for LPR cameras, software, etc. If it does not pass, nothing will change, and the money allocated for such will remain in the Village of Homer Glen’s general budget.**

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## ***What is a Feasibility Study?***

***This public question is to ask Village residents if they would like the Village to conduct a “feasibility study” to explore acquiring a part-time police department and the cost breakdown for such.***

***A feasibility study’s purpose is to analyze the costs and reasons associated with the referendum/public question to ensure they are rational and cost effective.***

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### **Referendum/Public Question No. 2:**

**“Shall the Village Board pursue exploring a feasibility study to create and maintain a part-time police department in the Village?”**

The feasibility study’s strategic analysis is straightforward: to prepare officials and the community to make an informed decision. Areas to examine more closely include the following: • Current police services • Demand for police services • Plans and projections for future growth • Community needs, desires, expectations, and support for various options • Fiscal resources and the impact of funding a new department on other city/county services • Existing resources that might be made available to assist.

- The question is **NOT** to vote on creating a part-time police department or a full-time police department for the Village of Homer Glen. The public question is only intended to ask Village residents if they would like the Village to conduct a “feasibility study.”
- The public question is **NOT** intended for hiring purposes.
- The public question is **NOT** to increase any Village of Homer Glen tax or create a new municipal tax.
- The public question is not meant to end contractual services with the Will County Sheriff’s Department.
- The exploration of a part-time police department for the Village of Homer Glen, will **NOT** end or cut supplemental police services provided by the Will County Sheriff’s Department.

**If the public question for the feasibility study passes, it does NOT mean that the Village of Homer Glen will create a part-time police department. If the feasibility study proves that it will be too burdensome on the Village of Homer Glen – no action will be taken.**

**If the public question for the feasibility study passes, the Village of Homer Glen will put out a bid for consultants who can conduct a proper feasibility study. If the question does NOT pass, nothing will change.**

**Why did the Village board pose this public question to residents asking for a feasibility study?**

- The Village of Homer Glen is the only community in all of Will County, Illinois, that does not have its own police department. All other communities in Will County have their own police department, and additional support from part-time police officers. This includes several towns with populations under 5,000 people.
- The Village of Homer Glen was incorporated in 2001. We are now 22 years old, and we continue to grow in population. The increasing population of the Village of Homer Glen is now comparable to population of the City of Lockport. Homer Glen is 24,516. Lockport is 26,118.
- Numerous resident inquiries have been received by the Village asking why the Village of Homer Glen has no police officers of its own, and inquiries as to when and if the Village of Homer Glen will ever have its own police officers.
- The Village of Homer Glen previously conducted an “in-house feasibility study” in 2008. This study cannot be utilized as it is both outdated and was not done by professional consultants who can give an accurate and current cost analysis.
- Currently the Village of Homer Glen contracts with Will County Sheriff’s Department for all police services.