

MEDIA RELEASE – 3rd & Final Reading on Sales/Use Tax Set for July 29, 2019

(Douglas, Arizona, July 21, 2019) The City of Douglas will be holding the 3rd Reading of the Sales Tax/Use Tax Increase ordinance on Monday, July 29, 2019 at 5:30 pm in a Special Council meeting in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 425 10th Street in Douglas. The public is encouraged to attend this final public hearing on whether the Council should increase the sales tax in order to generate an expanded revenue stream for City operations and service delivery.

This final hearing was originally scheduled two weeks later on August 14, 2019 at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Upon learning from the Arizona League of Cities & Towns this week that the City needed to hold its final and fourth opportunity for public comment on this item in July in order to begin tax collections from the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) by September, Interim City Manager Jerene Watson acted on this information. “All city managers are charged with the fiscal health of the cities they serve, whether interim or permanent managers and it is my responsibility to ensure we are set up to do everything possible to grow our revenues,” said Mrs. Watson. “Douglas is in a unique situation in that we *collect more than half of our sales/use tax from non-residents* than residents. Leveraging our resident tax dollars with even more taxes received from those not living here permanently gives us a good return on our resident investment in our community. To be aware we might forego a month of increased revenues expected to be at least \$145,000 in additional monies when we still have time to meet the July deadline and not set up the opportunity for Council would be irresponsible on my part. We need to use every tool available to strengthen the economic foundation of our City. Weighing the decision to course correct by moving the final hearing up by two weeks was strategic, but the decision also had to include a meeting date and time so it allows any who are interested to attend.”

The City is making every effort to communicate to the public in as many ways as possible about the final hearing on the sales/use tax change.

Questions or comments may be directed to Finance Director Luis Pedroza, 520-417-7319; luis.pedroza@douglasaz.gov; or Interim City Manager Jerene Watson, 520-417-7303; jerene.watson@douglasaz.gov.

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