

MEMORANDUM

TO: Salt Lake County Council Members

FROM: Councilmembers Dea Theodore and Richard Snelgrove

DATE: February 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Mountainous Planning District Legislation

The legislative authority to create and operate the Mountainous Planning District (MPD) will sunset on June 1, 2021. In addition, our ability to contribute to the public safety costs in Brighton Town using general fund monies will expire. Therefore, if we want a continuation of the MPD and a safe environment for the millions of visitors in the Wasatch Canyons, we need to act quickly to request a continuation of this authority from the Legislature.

After due consideration and many requests from our constituents, we propose the following legislative intent and ask for your support in making this request of the Legislature:

- (1) Removing the Town of Brighton from the Mountainous Planning District and Mountainous Planning Commission so that it may have its own land use authority;
- (2) Removing the sunset provision as it relates to Utah Code § 17-34-1(5)(d), or draft new legislation allowing the County to use general funds for fire, paramedic, and police protection services under certain circumstances as currently granted in Utah Code § 17-34-1(5)(d);
- (3) Removing the sunset provision from the Mountainous Planning District and Mountainous Planning Commission; and
- (4) Allowing the County to determine the membership, terms of service, and duties specified by County ordinance, similar to the criteria in Utah Code § 17-27a-301(3).

Due to the urgency on getting legislation drafted and passed during this legislative session, we recommend discussing the composition of the MPC regarding line item 4 above after we get the authority to do so. We recognize that there may be various stakeholders that would like to be involved in the discussion on the makeup of the MPC, but for now, we recommend that we proceed immediately to make the above requests to the Legislature. Under either our proposed MPC membership criteria, or the current statutory membership criteria, the 4 adjacent cities would retain their seats on the MPC. We can have a public meeting in the future where all stakeholders can participate in the discussion, and the Council can have the time to thoughtfully consider and weigh the options without the time constraints and the exigency of passing legislation during a closing legislative window.