

# 2025-2026 City of Lakewood State Legislative Agenda

## Community Partnership Program at Western State Hospital

The City proudly operates the successful community partnership program (CPP) which provides a safer environment for patients, staff and the surrounding community at Western State Hospital. Funding for this program is not included in DSHS' maintenance budget and must be requested each year. We respectfully request the Legislature allocate \$640,000 to the Western State Hospital CPP. This amount represents a 3% inflationary increase over the '23-25 appropriation which has not been adjusted since 2017.

## Edgewater Park Improvement Project (28<sup>th</sup> LD)

Equity for all residents is a major goal of the Lakewood City Council and providing public access to every major body of water in the City will help meet this goal. Edgewater Park is undeveloped and is the only public boat launch to Lake Steilacoom, the second largest lake in the city. A Master Plan has been developed with community input and the City has applied for several grants to bring the vision to fruition. The City requests \$350,000 to support improvements and ensure equitable access to this public space.

## Community Notification Board (29<sup>th</sup> LD)

Knowledge is power, and the City wants to provide residents with easier ways to stay informed by installing electronic notification boards at key locations. Types of messages shared may include details about public meetings, city events, general information about city services and key information in an emergency to keep the community safe. The electronic boards allow messages to be updated regularly and shared in multiple languages. The City requests \$250,000 toward the purchase, fabrication and installation of an electronic community notification board at South Tacoma Way & 96<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

## Clean Buildings Standards Compliance

The City has two buildings that must comply with the state's clean building standards, City Hall (Tier 1: over 50k SF) and the Police Station (Tier 2: 20-50K SF). The cost of necessary upgrades to City Hall is roughly \$5.9 million. The cost for the Police Station is not yet known. Lakewood applied for the Early Adopter Program for City Hall which incentivized building owners to comply with the standards earlier than required by providing grant funding. Unfortunately, the funding available through the statewide program is woefully inadequate to support the level of interest and need. The City has the following prioritized requests. First, the City requests ongoing state funding for upgrades to City Hall and the Police Station to comply with the Clean Buildings Standards. Second, the City requests refinements to the policy to allow consideration of the public cost versus benefit of the improvements. Finally, the City requests extending the timeline for compliance to expand access to capital resources.



# Western State Hospital Community Partnership Program

**Request:** Since 2007 the City has operated the highly effective Community Partnership Program at Western State Hospital. The 2023-25 Operating Budget allocated \$621,000 to the program. There has been no increase to this amount since 2017 but the cost to operate the program continues to rise. **The City respectfully requests that the 2025-27 operating budget include a 3% inflationary adjustment to the appropriation for this program. This equates to an \$19,000 increase or a total of \$640,000 over the course of the biennium.**

**Background:** Beginning in 2007, this longstanding partnership has successfully reduced calls for police service and created a safer environment for both the hospital and surrounding neighborhoods. Despite the ongoing need and the program's consistent success, funding has not been codified and each fiscal biennium the Legislature must appropriate funds for the program's continued operation.

The program has been so successful that it was replicated by the City of Medical Lake at Eastern State Hospital in 2023. Now staff and patients at both hospitals and in both communities benefit from this best practice.

In fiscal year 2024 there were quantifiable benefits to the Western State Hospital patients, staff and the surrounding community. From July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 LPD attended **34 meetings** to coordinate with hospital staff. In that same time period LPD was assigned and worked **174 cases** which included Homicide, Death Investigation, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Arson, Rape, Other Sex Crimes, Fraud, Forgery, Theft, Harassment, Vandalism, Escape, Patient Abuse, and Missing Person (Unauthorized Leave).

This collaborative partnership allowed LPD to clear 148 cases through a variety of dispositions including resolution, arrest/prosecution, victims declining to prosecute, Prosecution declining to prosecute, cases dismissed by the Court, being unfounded and referrals to other agencies. The vast majority of these criminal cases are resolved without removing the patient from the hospital, thereby reducing the risk of escape and keeping the patient within their treatment regimen.



# Edgewater Park Improvement Project

## Project Overview

Equity for all residents is a major goal of the Lakewood City Council and providing public access to every major body of water in the City will help meet this goal. The City has prioritized access to Edgewater Park as a major City initiative. Edgewater Park is undeveloped and is the only public boat launch to Lake Steilacoom, the second largest lake in the city. The park has largely been untouched since Lakewood incorporation in 1996.

In 2019 the City of Lakewood began developing a master site plan for the park. In 2023, an extensive community engagement process was implemented along with surveys, studies and other planning efforts. The City has approved the park master plan and is ready to make equitable access to this park and the lake a reality.

## Request

The City requests \$350,000 to provide and protect equitable water access to this public space, enhance safety for people and the environment and build a sense of place for the community. This funding will support the following improvements to the park which total \$ 7.2 million dollars

- Boat and Trailer Parking
- Public Restroom
- Boat launch with floating pier
- On street parking and boat and trailing parking stalls
- Creation of 9 (nine) street parking stalls and 5 (five) boat and trailer parking stalls
- Shoreline restoration and Wetland Plantings
- New ADA Accessible Pathways and gathering areas
- Enhanced Beach with New Seat Wall
- Diversity of Recreation
- Picnic Shelter and Plaza Space
- Benches and Bench Swings

The City applied for competitive grant funding through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The project is competing in three separate grant programs. The City asks for the state's direct investment to complete this project in its entirety.

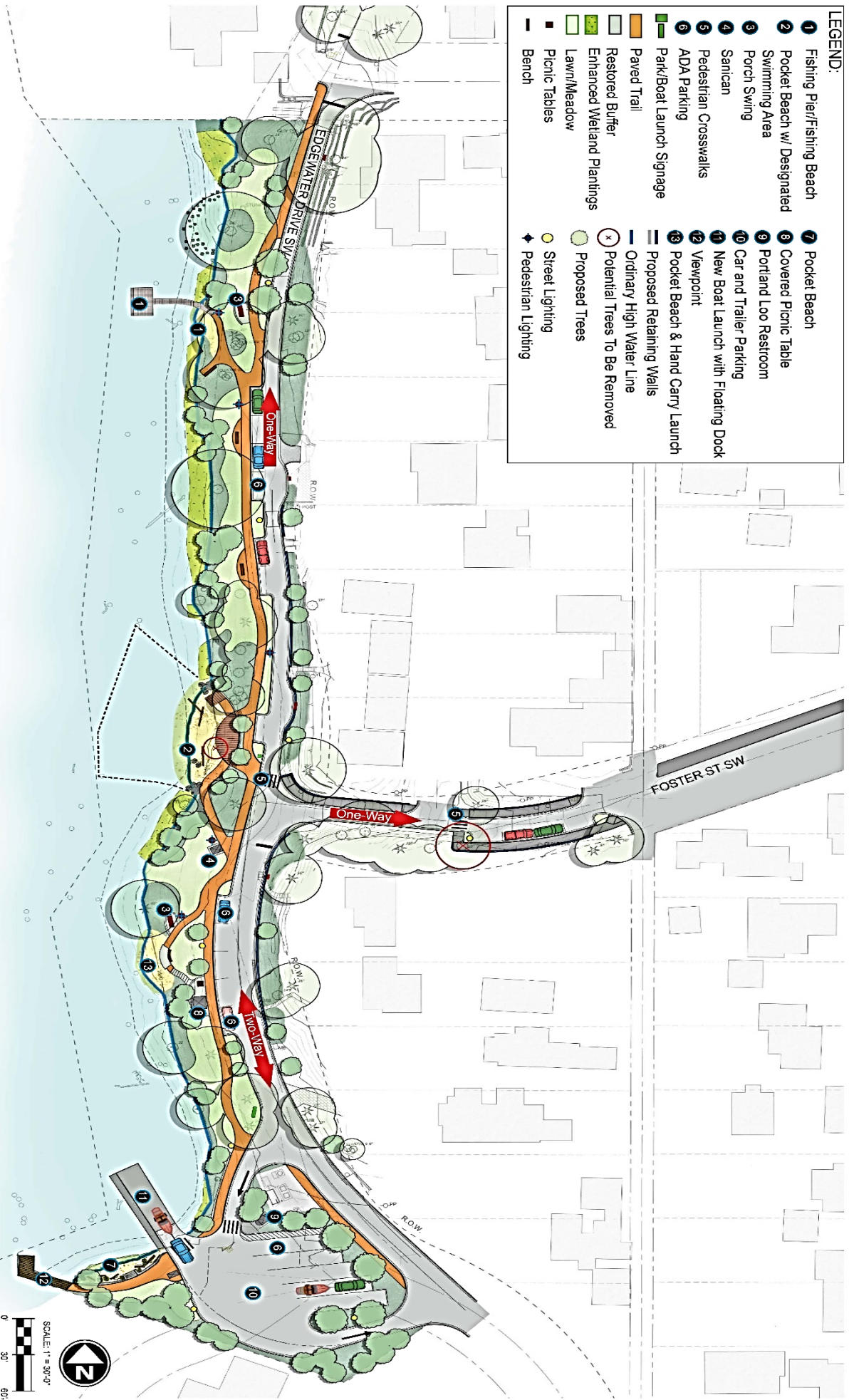
Ranked Grants	Amount	Ranked
WWRP – Water Access	\$2.22M	2 <sup>nd</sup> out of 12
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$500,000	3 <sup>rd</sup> out of 15
Boating Facilities Program	\$1.00M	Pending end of 2024

## Additional Park Facts

- Edgewater Park totals is a linear 2.8 acre park on the shore of Lake Steilacoom
- Lake Steilacoom is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest lake in Lakewood (306 acres)
- The only public boat launch on the lake is at this site.
- The lake is stocked each year with rainbow trout for year-round fishing.



- LEGEND:**
- 1 Fishing Pier/Fishing Beach
  - 2 Pocket Beach w/ Designated Swimming Area
  - 3 Porch Swing
  - 4 Sanican
  - 5 Pedestrian Crosswalks
  - 6 ADA Parking
  - 7 Park/Boat Launch Signage
  - 8 Paved Trail
  - 9 Restored Buffer
  - 10 Enhanced Wetland Plantings
  - 11 Lawn/Meadow
  - 12 Picnic Tables
  - 13 Bench
  - 7 Pocket Beach
  - 8 Covered Picnic Table
  - 9 Portland Loo Restroom
  - 10 Car and Trailer Parking
  - 11 New Boat Launch with Floating Dock
  - 12 Viewpoint
  - 13 Pocket Beach & Hand Carry Launch
  - Proposed Retaining Walls
  - Ordinary High Water Line
  - Potential Trees To Be Removed
  - Proposed Trees
  - Street Lighting
  - Pedestrian Lighting



**Final Master Plan**

City of Lakewood - Edgewater Park



**j.a. brennan**  
ASSOCIATES PLLC

April 26, 2024  
In Association with:  
Beyer Consulting, LLC  
Reid Middleton  
Heath & Associates, Inc.  
Geofingers, Inc.

# Community Notification Board

## Project Overview

Knowledge is power, and the City of Lakewood wants to provide residents with easier ways to stay informed by installing electronic notification boards at key locations. Types of messages shared may include details about public meetings, city events, general information about city services and key information in an emergency to keep the community safe. The electronic boards allow messages to be updated regularly and shared in multiple languages.

## Request

The City requests \$250,000 toward the purchase, fabrication and installation of an electronic community notification board. The board will be located on South Tacoma Way & 96<sup>th</sup> Street SW. The location was strategically selected by considering the average daily traffic count, proximity to a stoplight, competition with other signage and access to electrical conduit. Additionally, the board will be in an area rated “very low” on the City of Lakewood’s Equity Map, which considers accessibility, livability, education, economic and environmental factors<sup>1</sup>. Communication investments in these areas keep residents included and connected to the entire Lakewood community.

South Tacoma Way & 96 <sup>th</sup> St SW Board Funding	Amount
State	\$250,000
City	\$32,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$282,800</b>

## Additional Communication Investments in Lakewood

The City is committed to enhanced communication with Lakewood residents and has been making investments with city resources to this end. Some examples include:

- \$305,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds for electronic notification board in downtown
- Development of citywide wayfinding signage program, to include parks and downtown



<sup>1</sup> <https://lakewood.caimaps.info/cailive>



# Lakewood's Clean Buildings Standards Compliance

**Background:** Residential and commercial buildings are Washington's second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 27% of statewide emissions. With the life of a building spanning at least 50-100 years, retrofitting existing buildings to use less energy is the most cost-efficient way to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To meaningfully reduce these emissions, the legislature passed clean buildings laws in 2019 (HB 1257) and 2022 (SB 5722).

**Overview:** The City has two buildings that must comply with the state standards, City Hall (Tier 1 - over 50k SF) and the Police Station (Tier 2 – 20-50K SF). The Department of Commerce has published target Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets based on building type and climate zone. The City has completed an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) for City Hall which identifies existing energy use and makes recommendations for energy conservation measures. To comply with the state's Clean Building Standard, the City has evaluated several energy efficiency efforts and has identified key improvements that will reduce EUI to comply with the standards. An IGA for the police station is in development so the numbers for that building are not yet known.

Lakewood City Hall Baseline EUI (2021) = 73.7
Clean Buildings Target EUI = 54.6
Total Energy Reduction to Meet Target = -19.1

The City has identified three phases to complete the upgrades to City Hall and is proceeding forward with Phase 1 which will provide the largest EUI reduction. Phase 1 consists of:

- Updating the control systems for heating and cooling to reduce energy waste
- Replace non-condensing natural gas boilers with new condensing natural gas boilers
- Upgrade to LED lighting and lighting controls
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Phase 1	\$1,811,887
Phase 2	\$1,696,361
Phase 3	\$2,452,968
<b>Total for City Hall Compliance</b>	<b>\$5,961,206</b>

Lakewood has and is applying for grant programs to comply with the standards. Unfortunately, the funding available to these programs is woefully inadequate to support the level of interest and need. According to the Commerce [2024 Clean Buildings Report to the Legislature](#), "Preliminary construction costs for buildings applying for the Early Adopter Incentive Program average \$2,010,358. Initial incentive calculations average to 2.6% of the construction costs for building improvements." For Lakewood the Commerce Early Adopter Program provides Lakewood \$53,159 towards the necessary clean energy improvements to City Hall, once the entire project is complete. Even if the City receives the maximum award from all available grants, this coupled with utility rebate incentives, are only a fraction of the cost to meet the state's clean energy targets by 2028.

**Request:** The City has prioritized the following requests. First, the City requests ongoing state funding, either through a grant program or a direct appropriation, to support compliance with the Clean Buildings Standards. Funding is needed for Phase 2 and 3 of City Hall as well as all upgrades to the Police Station. Second, the City requests the Legislature consider amending the clean building standards to allow for discretion on whether the improvements will add value to the building or result in greater cost savings over time. Finally, the last option is to extend the timeline for compliance to improve access to capital resources.





# **2025 State Legislative Policy Manual**

Adopted Oct. 21, 2024

## *Lakewood City Council Vision Statement:*

*“Lakewood is a thriving, urban, South Puget Sound City, possessing the core values of family, community, education, economic prosperity, and the equitable delivery of municipal services. We will advance these values by recognizing our past, taking action in the present, and pursuing a dynamic future.”*



## **Lakewood City Council**

**Jason Whalen, *Mayor***

**Mary Moss, *Deputy Mayor***

**Ryan Pearson, *Councilmember***

**Paul Bocchi, *Councilmember***

**Patti Belle, *Councilmember***

**Michael Brandstetter, *Councilmember***

**Trestin Lauricella, *Councilmember***

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# CITY OF LAKEWOOD State Policy Manual

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history which led to this moment. The City would like to recognize that we are on the lands of the Nisqually People, and acknowledge the history of dispossession that allowed for the growth of our community. We offer respect to the Nisqually People and their Elders, past, present, and emerging. We recognize our responsibility to value all people, and are committed to equitably serving all people in our diverse community.

## A STATEMENT ON EQUITY BY THE LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL

The Lakewood City Council acknowledges that equity is essential to a healthy community.

We are committed to identifying and eliminating systemic racism. We intend to lead by example in the advancement of equity and the deliberate practice of inclusion.

The City Council commits to the following practices:

- Instilling equity as a priority of policy and the delivery of services.
- Enacting initiatives that support and celebrate the diversity of the community.
- Ensuring equity in municipal planning.
- Identifying and dismantling preconceived prejudices.
- Increasing sensitivity to social norms and cultural expectations.
- Pursuing justice and equity for all residents.

We recognize the critical role that city leaders have in removing barriers to opportunity. We recognize that systemic inequality has endured, but commit that it shall not persist. The City Council will not tolerate *intolerance*. It is unconscionable that some members of our community fall victim to acts of hate. Acts of hate based upon race, creed, ancestry, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or socioeconomic status are unwelcome in Lakewood, Washington. The Lakewood Police Department shall be vigilant in its investigation and prosecution of crimes of hate. These intentional practices will inform our decision-making on policing, zoning, capital investment and all other matters of the City Council. Our objective is to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Lakewood community for all residents and we invite all Lakewood organizations and residents to join us in this effort.



# CITY OF LAKEWOOD State Policy Manual

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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## HOUSING/ HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

### **South Sound Housing Affordability Partners**

The City is a founding member of the South Sound Affordable Housing Partners (SSHA<sup>3</sup>P), which is a regional effort by member municipalities to address affordable housing with a coordinated approach. The City supports SSHA<sup>3</sup>P's 2025 state legislative priorities on affordable housing, to include affordable housing subsidies, facilitating housing supply, and opposing preemption of local land use authority.

### **Quality Affordable Housing**

The City supports legislation that incentivizes developers to build affordable housing, such as the multifamily housing tax exemption, and funding allocated for public and nonprofit affordable housing, including the Housing Trust Fund.

### **Support for Homelessness Services**

Every year since incorporation, the City has allocated 1% of its general fund to support low-income and vulnerable residents by partnering with and funding community-based organizations to provide access to: housing, food, youth programs, behavioral health services, and other human services. The City requests the state's ongoing partnership in supporting programs and services that help prevent temporary and recurrent homelessness as well as meet housing growth targets that include specific numbers of emergency housing units and housing units affordable to those at 80% and below Pierce County area median income (AMI.)

### **Utility Connections in Support of Middle Housing Types**

The City supports middle housing types (duplexes, triplexes, accessory dwelling units, etc.) to augment Lakewood's affordable housing stock. Middle housing types are a viable, equitable, and increasingly popular affordable housing option. However, utility and side sewer connections to accommodate middle housing types on current lots can be prohibitively expensive, especially for lower-income households.

Recently passed state laws (HB 1337 and HB 1110) allow middle housing on historically single family lots but the zoning is not the barrier. For these units to be viable, it will require connection to utilities that the City does not own nor have authority over infrastructure expansions. The City supports legislation to address costly connection fees to foster middle housing development.



# CITY OF LAKEWOOD State Policy Manual

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **Economic Development Tools**

The City supports robust and sustainable funding for the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund, Community Economic Revitalization Board, Public Works Assistance Account, Public Facility Districts, and other programs that assist local governments in neighborhood residential and commercial area rehabilitation.

The City also supports legislation that provides optional economic development tools for cities, such as the multi-family housing tax incentive, lodging tax, the Main Street Act (a series of small tax incentives for neighborhood business districts), creative districts, complete streets grant program, community facility financing, shared state revenue for construction of convention and special event centers, additional shared state revenue for urban renewal and other public facility improvements, and innovative approaches to property tax assessment that reduces the current incentive to allow property to remain blighted.

### **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

The City appreciates the Legislature's authorization of tax increment financing as an economic development tool (HB 1189, 2021). This law allows cities, towns, counties, and port districts in Washington to use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as a tool for funding infrastructure projects that support economic development. The City does not support legislation that would allow for tax districts to opt-out of a TIF district, as this would render TIF ineffective in funding critical infrastructure projects.

### **Annexation**

The City believes that annexation laws should encourage the logical development and expansion of the City to provide for a healthy and growing local economy and efficient provision of urban services. The City supports legislation that would modify state annexation laws to reduce the administrative process and the overall cost of annexation, both of which would help encourage and incentivize the annexation of existing unincorporated islands.



# CITY OF LAKEWOOD

## State POLICY MANUAL

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

### **Transit Oriented Development**

The City supports legislation that provides continued authority and expanded tools to local governments to best plan for transit oriented development. The City adopted the 2021 Lakewood Station District Subarea Plan to prompt development near the Lakewood Sound Transit Station and took into consideration displacement risks and other unique factors such as proximity to a major military installation. The City has conducted updates to its land use zoning, anticipating future transit service currently planned by transit agencies. The City opposes state mandates on TOD that do not address displacement and other local characteristics.

### **Local Authority for Land Use and Planning**

The City supports preserving the authority of local governments regarding local taxation, as well as land use planning, zoning and regulation consistent with the GMA (RCW 36.70A) and SEPA (RCW 43.21C.) and opposes preemption of local authority by the state legislature. For example, the City is concerned with the potential negative consequences of HB 1110 and HB 1337 at the local level. The City supports state level efforts to bolster military installations' sustainability and operational readiness and address land use compatibility issues, so long as local jurisdictional control over land use and infrastructure planning is not eroded.

### **Need for Unique Restrictions in Air Corridors**

The City believes that unique restrictions on land use density is necessary for land proximate to military installations. Such restrictions must be recognized within buildable lands reports, growth targets, and comprehensive planning. The North Clear Zone, Air Corridor 1 and Air Corridor 2 zones in Lakewood's case are zones that reflect the FAA and DoD guidance regarding safe densities and types of uses. Cities should not be forced to choose between GMA compliance and guidance from Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) and Air Installation Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) reports.



# CITY OF LAKEWOOD State POLICY MANUAL

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## PARKS, RECREATION, & COMMUNITY SERVICES

### **Edgewater Park Improvement Project**

Equity for all residents is a major goal of the Lakewood City Council and providing public access to every major body of water in the City will help meet this goal. The City has prioritized access to Edgewater Park as a major City initiative. Edgewater Park is undeveloped and is the only public boat launch to Lake Steilacoom, the second largest lake in the city. The park has largely been untouched since Lakewood incorporation in 1996.

In 2019 the City of Lakewood began developing a master site plan for the park. In 2023, an extensive community engagement process was implemented along with surveys, studies and other planning efforts. The City has approved the park master plan and is ready to make equitable access to this park and the lake a reality.

The City requests \$350,000 to provide and protect equitable water access to this public space, enhance safety for people and the environment and build a sense of place for the community.

### **Historic Fort Steilacoom**

The City has been working with both the State and the Historic Fort Steilacoom Association (HFSA) to explore how to best preserve Historic Fort Steilacoom for future generations to use and enjoy. Historic Fort Steilacoom is one of the best preserved pre-civil war forts west of the Mississippi comprised of parade ground, two remaining junior officer's quarters, the headquarters building with the commanding officer's residence, and the post chapel and chaplain's quarters that presently serve as an interpretive center and offices. Additional buildings are used to store historical resources. Currently, the fort facilities are located on land and in buildings owned by the State, managed by DSHS, and operated and maintained by HFSA. The facilities are in critical need of maintenance and repair. The City is working with the State and HFSA to determine how to best preserve this historic amenity for future generations to learn from and enjoy. The City, with support of the Historic Fort Steilacoom Association, along with interest from DSHS, have begun to explore a phased program which begins with the City assuming ownership of the historic buildings and land footprint from DSHS, as well as determining how to best maintain the historic site moving forward. The final goal is to preserve the historic site, with possible site capital improvements funded by lodging tax dollars and state funding requests in the future.



# CITY OF LAKEWOOD

## State Policy Manual

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

### **H Barn Renovation at Fort Steilacoom Park**

The City has made major investments at Fort Steilacoom Park. As a continuation of these efforts and in coordination with Partners for Parks and other non-profit and community organizations, the City is planning to restore the historic H Barn. A capital fundraising effort, led by Partners for Parks, is underway. The City anticipates seeking the state's financial support in the coming years to preserve and restore this iconic barn building into a multi-purpose facility for public and private use at Fort Steilacoom Park, a 350-acre historic farm site once owned by the state.

### **South Puget Sound Wildlife Area**

The South Puget Sound Wildlife Area is a 100-acre open space area located in Lakewood. The site includes hiking and bike trails, picnic area with views of prairie habitat, native plant garden with information on indigenous plants, as well as an active fish hatchery and turtle ponds. This area is owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife but maintained by local volunteers. Over 2,000 volunteer hours and \$100,000 has been donated towards site improvements, by local service clubs and residents. The area is increasingly being used for outdoor education by NW Youth Corps, Pierce College, the Clover Park School district and others. The City requests that the state legislature ensure WDFW has appropriate funding for state funded maintenance at this site along with support for implementation of master plan capital site improvements.

### **Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Funding**

The City supports programs administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and opposes diversion from RCO programs. Specifically, the City supports ongoing funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA), and the Boating Facilities Program (BFG)) grant programs. The City has applied for funding in the following categories for Edgewater Park Phase 1 and 2:

- **WWRP - Water Access:** \$2.2 million for Edgewater Park Improvements
- **Aquatic Land Enhancements (ALEA):** \$500,000 for Edgewater Park Improvements
- **Boating Facilities Program:** \$1,000,000 for new Edgewater Boat Launch





# CITY OF LAKEWOOD

## State POLICY MANUAL

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### **Camp Murray Boat Launch Improvements**

The City and Camp Murray have explored options to make improvements at the Camp Murray Boat Launch for the benefit of the public. The boat launch provides public access to American Lake and is currently managed by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The City could invest in infrastructure development to increase accessibility to American Lake. The City and Camp Murray have agreed to complete a Master Plan for the area, which would identify the options for improvements and allow Camp Murray input into the process. Site improvements include, a pedestrian walkway, to include ADA accessibility and lighting, parking lot improvements, and boat launch ramp improvements, such as moorage dock(s). The City is funding the Master Plan with \$100K in ARPA funds, and will be seeking future funding from the state for improvements

## **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Clover Creek Flood Plain**

The City completed an engineering report to generate and evaluate project alternatives to mitigate 100-year flood risk along Clover Creek within the City limits. The City developed a flood model that was updated in 2019 for Clover Creek, which revealed a significant increase to the area impacted by floodwater when compared to the previous FEMA effective map of inundation for the 100-year event. The updated model suggests a significant portion of the City of Lakewood could be impacted by the floodwaters, including I-5. The flooding to I-5 could potentially result in significant new regulatory constraints placed on I-5 and would directly affect Joint Base Lewis-McChord mission readiness. The City began to explore flood mitigation alternatives to reduce these potential impacts to the City and I-5, and after collaborating with various state, local, and tribal agencies.

The City has chosen to further explore a levee in the general flooding area. This option consists of a flood blocking structure along or setback from Clover Creek that would block nearly all flood water from the city and the I-5 corridor within city limits. The City is conducting an elevation survey of the flood area to further develop the levee option. This option provides the most comprehensive flood mitigation benefit. At an estimated cost of around \$20 million, the City will need outside resources, as well as continued collaboration with state agencies, such as WSDOT, to ensure Lakewood residents and the I-5 corridor are safe from this potentially devastating flood event.



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### City Right of Way

There have been several proposals in the last few years that would limit city authority over right of way and utility franchise agreements. The City opposes legislation that preempts and erodes local control over city right of way.

### I-5 South Sound Corridor Improvements

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has indicated a preference to take a holistic approach to transportation improvements along the I-5 corridor. The City supports this position and WSDOT's efforts to ensure that future investments in the I-5 south sound corridor resolve, rather than shift traffic congestion points. Below are specific issues that require the Legislature's attention:

- 1) **I-5 JBLM Corridor Improvements:** The 2015 Connecting Washington package invested \$495 million to widen the I-5 corridor through Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), reconfigure three interchanges and build a connector road from Gravelly Lake Drive to Thorne Lane. Construction of this Connector should prioritize road safety and mitigate impacts to neighbors. A primary goal of this investment was to eliminate the bottleneck at Thorne Road by expanding the corridor from three to four lanes. Although this work is still underway, the congestion at Thorne Lane is significantly reduced due to the additional lane and interchange reconfiguration. Future investments along the I-5 corridor, particularly expanding I-5 north of Thorne Lane from four to five lanes to accommodate HOV lanes, should consider the impact it would have on this and other congestion points.
- 2) **I-5 High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes:** The City supports the I-5 Tacoma/Pierce County High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes Program and appreciates that the 2022 Move Ahead WA package allocated \$244 million to extend the program along I-5 between 38th and Gravelly Lake Drive. The City requests an extension of this program to include a dedicated HOV 5<sup>th</sup> lane (one each direction) from Tacoma to Mounts Road in DuPont which requires a reconfigured interchange at the Main Gate (Exit 120). If additional HOV lanes are not extended throughout the entire south sound corridor, the previous bottleneck that began at Thorne Lane will return, despite significant state investments to alleviate this congestion. The timing of this extension should align with the expansion of I-5 south of Mounts Road, to mitigate additional congestion at that chokepoint.
- 3) **Main Gate Interchange (Exit 120):** As part of the current I-5 JBLM Corridor Improvements, WSDOT identified the Main Gate Interchange



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(Exit 120) reconfiguration as a necessary future improvement to expand I-5 from four to five lanes and address systemic congestion through the corridor. This Interchange serves as the primary access to Lewis Main on the east side of I-5 and to Lewis North on the west side. The proximity of the at-grade rail crossing to the Lewis North gate is a safety concern and creates backups on I-5 during peak periods. Reconfiguring the interchange to include a grade separated crossing would eliminate this risk for service members and Clover Park School District buses that use this at-grade crossing to access the installation.

- 4) **I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater & Nisqually River Delta:** I-5 is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM's mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. However, the current design of I-5 impedes critical ecological functions of the Nisqually River Delta, is at risk of being overtopped by the Nisqually River resulting in national security concerns and is inadequate to meet the growing commerce and transportation demands of our state.
- The current I-5 design obstructs natural ecological functions of the Nisqually River Delta that are critical to **salmon survival**. The decrease in salmon population negatively impacts the Nisqually Indian Tribe's treaty rights and way of life. The environmental impacts of I-5 on the delta may compound into costly environmental remediation efforts in the future if left unaddressed.
  - According to a US Geological Survey, there is a high risk that I-5 will be overtopped by a major flooding event in the next 15 years. This would be devastating locally and regionally and it would impact **national security** since 30% of the JBLM workforce live south of the Nisqually River and would be unable to report to duty.
  - The current design of **I-5 has limited capacity** to handle the growing South Sound economy and population. Traffic models show lengthy delays through this corridor with no change to existing infrastructure.

Lakewood, in partnership with SSMCP and the Nisqually Indian Tribe, support a redesign of I-5 south of Mounts Road through the Nisqually River Delta to improve salmon survival, eliminate the flood risk and address congestion in the region. The \$75 million allocated to this project in the Move Ahead Washington package is an important step but more work will be needed. Two design options are being considered for further review and a preferred alternative will be selected in the fall of 2025.



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### **Infrastructure Funding**

Local agencies, including the City of Lakewood, lack resources for infrastructure funding. As a result, city roads remain in disrepair or general fund dollars are taken from other important services to repair roads; or a combination thereof. The City requests expansion of state funding to assist with maintenance and preservation of local infrastructure. The City continues to support the state's ongoing and increased investment in infrastructure funding programs.

### **Limiting Additional Freight on Point Defiance Bypass (Lakeview Rail Line)**

The City opposes increased freight traffic along this corridor that is above and beyond the activity already in place and does not have a destination within Lakewood or Joint Base Lewis-McChord. With the opening of the Point Defiance Bypass project in support of Amtrak passenger rail coupled with increasing demands on freight rail, there is concern that the Point Defiance Bypass project could eventually lead to increased freight traffic in addition to new passenger rail.

### **Future Commercial Airfields - JBLM**

The City opposes the use of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) as a commercial airfield and as well as the identification of any location for a new commercial airfield, that would impede the operations of JBLM. In regards to considering JBLM as a potential site, there is strong opposition from the Lakewood congressional delegation, significant concerns raised by the military, high congestion issues, no transit service, and was rated "unlikely" by WSDOT and "unable to accommodate commercial air service" by the Puget Sound Regional Council. House Bill 1791 rebranded the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission (CACC) to be the Commercial Aviation Work Group and calls for annual reports on siting progress rather than identification of a single location by date certain. The Governor's veto of four sections resulted in removal of the legislature's guidance to eliminate any site that would be incompatible with the operations of a military installation.

### **Stormwater & Culvert Funding**

Cities have significant stormwater and culvert funding needs. The City of Lakewood requests secure, ongoing and sufficient funding for city culvert repair and replacement. The City supports funding for current and new grant programs for local stormwater and culvert projects.

### **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations**

The City supports both Federal and State legislation for strategically implementing electric vehicle charging stations. The City requests that as local



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governments are required to implement 2024 E2SHB 1181, , that regional and state public entities, such as Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, WSDOT and relevant utility companies, lead the implementation effort through both funding and administration.

## FINANCES

### **Insurance Costs**

Recent legislation and subsequent court decisions have increased the legal liability of public entities, resulting in higher rates for liability coverage. The City's liability rates increased by 37% from 2022 to 2023 and by another 41.2% from 2023 to 2024. The City joins AWC in requesting that the Legislature protect against liability expansion and new policies that would drive additional claims and litigation increasing costs, especially in the area of law enforcement and public safety, and human resources.

### **State-Shared Revenues**

Cities rely on state-shared revenues to provide critical funding for essential public services. The City request continued appropriation of committed state shared funds, such as Liquor Excise Taxes and Profits, City-County Assistance Account, Municipal Criminal Justice Account, Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and public health funding. These funds are used to support city activities, including police, infrastructure development, public defenders, municipal court, etc. In total, state-shared revenues constitute a significant portion of the City's operating revenue at around 6% each biennium.

### **General Fund Revenue**

The City supports legislation that will increase, expand, or favorably restructure its revenue-raising ability. In consideration of 1) the continued growth in demand for services that exceed revenue growth and inflation, and 2) intimate knowledge of individual community needs, the City supports unrestricted uses of all general government tax revenue. For example, removing restrictions on the use of real estate excise tax (REET), gambling taxes, etc.

### **City Financial Liability for Indigent Defense**

Indigent defense is a constitutional right and a state obligation. The state has passed the responsibility to provide indigent defense to counties and cities but has not provided adequate funding.

In 2024, the City paid \$687,300 in primary public defense. In 2018, the City paid \$528,000. This is a 30% increase over the last six years. This cost has been trending upwards in recent years due to economic pressures, historic inflation, and



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negotiated terms for competitive compensation schedules and compliant case counting schemes.

This ongoing challenge will be exacerbated by the Washington State Bar Association's proposed indigent defense standards. The proposed standards would lower misdemeanor caseloads to 120 cases per attorney, a nearly three-fold decrease from the current 400 cases per attorney, as well as transition to hourly compensation schedules from the current "per case" schemes.

Without parity in state grant funding for indigent defense, the City's general fund will be greatly impacted by new standards. Beyond the financial impact, the proposed standards are not achievable with the current public defense workforce, nor with a massive uptick in the industry. The City supports keeping the current WSBA caseload and compensation schedule standards, along with adequate levels of state funding for indigent defense that is standardized and non-competitive to ensure more equitable funding and uniform application of justice.

### **Unfunded Mandates & Other State Budget Impacts**

Mandates from the State government are rarely accompanied with adequate new revenues or taxing authority, but instead force the City to reduce funding levels for other services. The City opposes efforts by the State Legislature to balance budgets by shifting responsibilities to cities.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Public Safety**

The City supports a commonsense and meaningful approach to public safety policies that protect lives and property and foster trust in government.

During the 2024 session, progress was made in this area but there is still more work to be done. In collaboration with other Pierce County municipalities, the City requests the Legislature:

- 1) Provide tools to address auto theft and property crime, including increased state funding to grant programs to support regional enforcement and prosecution efforts;
- 2) Commit ongoing state funding for therapeutic courts to satisfy the new state drug possession law;
- 3) Supply stable state funding for co-responder programs, such as the City's Behavioral Health Contact Team; and
- 4) Amend state law to allow for a parent or guardian to provide consent for a juvenile to be interviewed by law enforcement to include consent to search property to resolve unsolved crimes and prevent future incidents.



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Create programs to improve law enforcement retention, such as state supported law enforcement officer wellness and injury prevention programs.

## **Community Partnership Program at Western State Hospital**

The City proudly operates the successful community partnership program (CPP) which provides a safer environment for patients, staff and the surrounding community at Western State Hospital. Funding for this program is not included in DSHS' maintenance budget and must be requested each year. We respectfully request the Legislature allocate \$640,000 to the Western State Hospital CPP. This amount represents a 3% inflationary increase over the '23-25 appropriation which has not been adjusted since 2017.

## ***Blake Response***

The City is grateful the state has provided funding to help offset city costs created by the Blake Decision on how possession of controlled substances is handled by the criminal justice system. City costs include processing criminal conviction vacations and repaying legal financial obligations as well as support for ongoing costs for diversion programs and municipal court impacts. The City requests long-term state investment in alternative response teams, treatment facilities for adults and juveniles, treatment in jails, and to provide support to social workers, treatment providers and system navigators to help direct people to treatment.

## **Hiring and Retention**

Public safety agencies nationwide are experiencing officers leaving the profession at an unprecedented rate, either through early retirement or leaving the field. The City supports state policies including funding to local law enforcement agencies that promote recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers and expedite opportunities for newly hired officers to receive training.

## **Vehicular Pursuits**

The City thanks the legislature for making progress on clarifying the ability for law enforcement to conduct vehicular pursuits for the benefit of public safety. Since the probable cause threshold was established in 2021, there have been several occasions where the high standard prevented pursuit of a vehicle, jeopardizing public safety. The City will continue to support safety measures and training for officers who engage in vehicular pursuits.

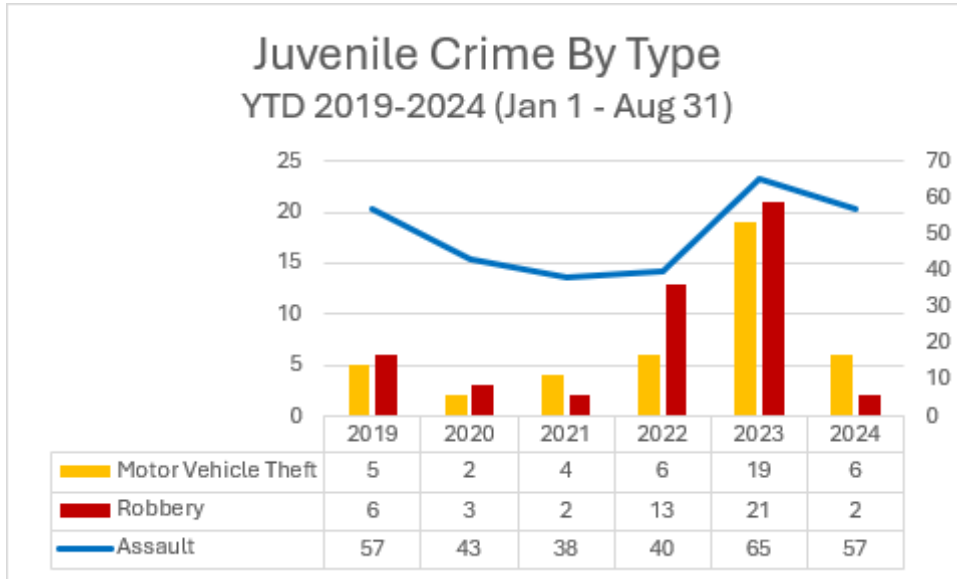


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## Juvenile Crime

Compared to the 5-year average (2019-2023), through August 2024, juvenile robberies have decreased by 78%, motor vehicle theft decreased by 17%, and assaults are up by 17%.



The City requests the state amend state law to allow for a parent or guardian to provide consent for a juvenile to be interviewed by law enforcement to include consent to search property to resolve unsolved crimes and prevent future incidents.

Additionally, the City joins AWC in requesting expansion of juvenile behavioral health treatment capacity and state correctional capacity.

Youth education is also critical component to ensuring criminal behavior is addressed at a young age to prevent the uptick in youth crime experienced by the Lakewood community. The City supports educational efforts to teach youth about the consequences of criminal behavior. Youth education that prevents criminal activity upstream should also include intervention of at-risk youth and their families by connections to social services at an early age, such as Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department’s Family Support Partnership. The City supports any state funding that would support youth education about social services, such as the County’s Family Support Partnership.

By both educating at-risk youth and their families about social services, and about the consequences of criminal activity early on, the City hopes that youth criminal activity will be curtailed.





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### **Geographic Equity in Discharge from State Facilities**

The City appreciates the State's recent efforts to move toward a more community-based behavioral health system. This transition presents an opportunity to not only provide more accessible services to those who need it most, but also for the facilities to be more geographically disbursed. Based on the findings from the Commerce report, the State should invest in long term care facilities in underserved regions of the state.

The City requests the following changes be made to state law:

- 1) Per the findings from the April 2023 Commerce Report, the state needs to procure additional services and supports in Olympic, North Central, Great Rivers, Greater Columbia, and King regions. The report also shows that adult family homes in Pierce County are serving a large percentage of Long-Term Civil Commitment (LTCC) patients. Incentivize providers, particularly adult family homes, to provide services in underserved areas.
- 2) Institute fair share policies for discharge planning from state hospitals for individuals that have a history of one or more violent acts (extend SB 5163 (2021) policies, that only apply to the Special Commitment Center, to state hospitals).

### **Protecting Residents of Adult Family Homes**

Adult Family Homes (AFHs) serve adults with functional limitations who need personal and special care. The City requests legislation that protects these vulnerable members of our community by preventing Level 2 and 3 registered sex offenders, sexually violent predators and "felony flips" from residing in AFHs. The City supports amending the definition of "resident" in RCW 70.128.010 to exclude individuals convicted of sexually violent crimes and crimes that require registration as a sex offender.

### **Body Worn Cameras**

In the 2023-25 budget the state legislature allocated \$1.6 million for the body camera grant program administered by the WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). The City supports ongoing funding for this program to assist municipalities with the purchase, maintenance or replacement of Body Worn Cameras (BWC), ongoing costs related to record management, and hiring of personnel to operate the BWC program.

### **Binding Interest Arbitration Reform**

The City recognizes the importance of having a tool to help resolve potentially devastating strikes by essential service personnel, such as police and firefighters. However, existing binding interest arbitration statutes are out-of-date and inflexible, resulting in many unintended consequences – the City finds this particularly true in regard to disciplinary processes. The City requests that



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the state reform existing binding interest arbitration language to limit unintended repercussions.

### **Authority to Appoint Municipal Court Judges**

The City supports cities' authority to appoint a municipal court judge and to maintain municipal courts. The City supports further technical and financial assistance for the administration of municipal courts.

### **Traffic Enforcement Cameras**

The state legislature has authorized local government to use traffic enforcement cameras in limited situations, including red light enforcement at certain intersections and speed control in certain zones. Traffic enforcement cameras have proven to be successful at reducing instances of speeding and violations of traffic signals. The City supports the use of traffic enforcement cameras. The City also supports legislation allowing images from traffic enforcement cameras to be used by law enforcement in criminal cases when there is probable cause.

The City appreciates the expanded authority to utilize traffic safety cameras as outlined in the recent passage of HB 2384. However, the City remains concerned with the restrictions on the ability to use traffic camera revenue on general government services. This limitation creates administrative burdens and inefficiencies. Cities need flexibility in how to oversee and manage city programs.

### **Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA)**

The City supports ongoing funding of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy which is the sole training program for police departments statewide. With an increasing number of law enforcement officers retiring, it is imperative this program receive adequate funding to provide ample training openings for new hires in a timely manner. The City supports adequate and ongoing funding for the recently established regional Criminal Justice Training Commission campuses which will help address the backlog of training slots at the Academy and ease of access to more agencies. The City also supports the discretion of CJTC to hold academy seats based on number of anticipated officer hires, as currently, academy seats are not held until a potential hire name has been provided, which can further delay the hiring process.

### **Jail and Court Costs**

The City supports legislative proposals that reduce jail and court costs, and maintain its flexibility in providing jail and court services. The City supports maintaining the flexibility to select the most appropriate manner in which to provide jail and court services. The City will monitor all legislation that impacts



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the City's ability to contract with government agencies.

### **State Hospital Reentry Program**

The City supports language that would expand the reentry community safety program. The current program is designed for individuals being released from a correctional facility. The City supports expanding the program to apply to patients who are civilly committed after prosecution for a violent offense or who are civilly committed based on criminal insanity.

### **Enhanced Services Facilities**

Enhanced Services Facilities (ESFs) serve adults with mental and chemical disorders or other impairments that require supervision and daily care. The City supports legislation that would prohibit Adult Family Home businesses (AFHs) from converting to ESFs, as well as legislation that would prohibit the locating of ESFs in residential neighborhoods.

### **Acute and Long-Term Care Facilities**

The City supports the implementation of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement and state funding for the construction and ongoing operation of acute and long-term care facilities equitably dispersed in communities throughout the state.

### **Civil Asset Forfeiture**

Civil asset forfeiture allows law enforcement agencies to take possession of property when the property itself is illegal, was used to facilitate a crime, is proceeds from a crime, or was purchased with proceeds traceable to criminal activity. The City views civil asset forfeiture as a valuable tool, and will closely monitor legislation and oppose provisions that add restrictions on law enforcement's use of civil asset forfeiture.

### **Consolidate Traffic-Based Financial Obligations**

The City supports legislative proposals that would authorize the Administrative Office of the Courts to establish a unified payment plan system for the consolidation of multiple traffic-based financial obligations. This solution allows defendants to bring multiple outstanding obligations into the new payment plan for ongoing servicing with a single point of contact, reduces the volume of driver's license suspension for failure to respond or pay, fewer DWLS-3 prosecutions, and improved collection rates.



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### **Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) – 2025 Legislative Agenda**

The City supports several items in WASPC’s 2025 legislative agenda, to include increased funding for recruitment and retention, revisiting juvenile access to attorneys, adding fentanyl to list of qualifying drugs within endangerment and controlled substance law, Public Records Act policy issues related to police body/dash camera footage, and streamlining permitting for License Plate Readers (LPRs), to put LPRs on WSDOT poles around the community.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Public Records & Open Meetings**

The City respects the right of the public to have access to legitimate public records and documents. The City believes its ability to recover the costs of searching for, gathering and reviewing requested documents is also in the public’s interest. The City supports reasonable reforms to the Public Records Act. The City opposes requiring the recording of executive sessions or other restrictions on legitimate uses of executive sessions.

### **Community Notification Board**

Knowledge is power, and the City of Lakewood wants to provide residents with easier ways to stay informed by installing electronic notification boards at key locations. Types of messages shared may include details about public meetings, city events, general information about city services and key information in an emergency to keep the community safe. The electronic board allows messages to be updated regularly and shared in multiple languages. The City requests \$250,000 toward the purchase, fabrication and installation of an electronic community notification board on South Tacoma Way & 96<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

### **Clean Buildings Standard Compliance**

The City has two buildings that must comply with the state standards, City Hall (Tier 1 - over 50k SF) and the Police Station (Tier 2 – 20-50K SF). The Department of Commerce has published target Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets based on building type and climate zone. The City has completed an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) for City Hall which identifies existing energy use and makes recommendations for energy conservation measures. To comply with the state’s Clean Building Standard, the City has evaluated several energy efficiency efforts and has identified key improvements that will reduce EUI to comply with the standards. An IGA for the police station is in development so the numbers for that building are not yet known.



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The City has prioritized the following requests. First, the City requests additional ongoing state funding, either through a grant program or a direct appropriation, to support compliance with the Clean Buildings Standards. Funding is needed for Phase 2 and 3 of City Hall as well as all upgrades to the Police Station. Second, the City requests the Legislature consider amending the clean building standards to allow for discretion on whether the improvements will add value to the building or result in greater cost savings over time. Finally, the last option is to extend the timeline for compliance to improve access to capital resources.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS

#### **Defense Community Compatibility Account – North Clear Zone Funding**

The DCCA is a grant program that supports necessary infrastructure and compatible land use near Washington military installations. The DCCA is the most viable long-term option to secure the required state/local match to resolve the incompatible development in the McChord North Clear Zone. The City supports the state's ongoing investment in the DCCA via the biennial capital budget.

#### **Statewide Coordination for Federal Military Affairs**

Washington is the 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of active-duty military and has five major military installations yet there is no statewide coordination of federal military affairs. The City supports the creation of a cabinet level position within the Governor's office to coordinate federal military affairs.

#### **South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) & Joint Base Lewis-McChord**

The City of Lakewood is a strong partner with Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and a founding member of the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP), a nationally recognized organization that gives unique voice to a range of issues affecting Pierce and Thurston Counties and their cities as well as JBLM, the largest military installation in Washington State. JBLM is a regional employment hub and a major statewide economic driver. The City supports the ongoing efforts of SSMCP and supports policy and financial decisions that assist JBLM's operational readiness and sustainability.

The City also believes in strong policy and financial commitments from the State in support of statewide military affairs while preserving local governments' and regional coordinating organizations' flexibility and authority to maintain communications and relationships with area installations.



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Lakewood supports establishing a Military Advisory Council to advise the Governor and Legislature; providing financial support of regional military-community partnerships such as Forward Fairchild, Puget Sound Naval Bases Association and SSMCP; and strengthening financial, legislative and political support for military presence in Washington in anticipation of future force restructuring or defense contract reductions due to sequestration, Department of Defense budget reductions, and/or base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds.

The City supports SSMCP's 2025 Legislative Priorities:

### 1) Defense Industry's Economic Impact on Washington

For the first time in over a decade the defense industry's economic impact on Washington State has been quantified. A legislatively directed report, completed September 2024, concluded roughly 4% of gross state product (GSP), or \$30.9 billion, was connected to the defense economy. The military and defense sector's contribution to Washington's GSP is greater than that of agriculture, clean technology, forest products, life sciences and global health, maritime, and tourism. Further, defense expenditures supported 254,904 jobs in FY23, representing over 5% of total statewide employment.

### 2) Military Family Quality of Life

Some of the greatest challenges facing military families in the South Sound are access to housing, childcare and employment for spouses. SSMCP is working regionally to remove barriers to these necessities and supports state level action through 1) incentives, 2) increased investment 3) reduction in administrative burdens that drive up costs and 4) coordination with other military installations and communities.

### 3) Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

SSMCP requests the biennial capital budget fully fund the DCCA project list, as recommended by the Department of Commerce. This grant program supports civilian communities near military installations and leverages federal investment in our state. For SSMCP, this would mean \$1M to purchase a property in the McChord Airfield North Clear Zone. This long term plan of resolving encroachment has a commitment of up to \$80 million from the federal government but requires a 20% state match.

### 4) I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater & Nisqually River Delta

SSMCP continues to partner with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and other regional agencies to support the critical work along I-5 to improve infrastructure resilience against existing erosion and flood risk, restore



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critical habitat and improve mobility through the region. State funding has allowed the project to advance to the NEPA stage and a preferred alternative will be identified then designed. Additional state or federal funds are required to finalize engineering work. This includes \$1.5 million for preliminary engineering of part time shoulder use on southbound I-5 between Sleater-Kinney and Henderson Boulevard. This practical solutions approach would improve the transportation outcomes of the initial investment the state has made in the Nisqually River delta.