

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Cynthia Martinez, City Manager

From: Colleda Monick, Community Development Specialist  
Sara Watkins, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Date: August 27, 2019

Subject: City Council Briefing on City Cruise Ordinance Meeting

Recently, City Councilmember Jason White, along with city staff, met with various car club members to discuss their concerns related to city requirements for Cruising the Ave.

The following car club members were in attendance; Art Reiss from Yakima Vintiques; Bill Wallace from Yakima Vintiques; TJ Davis of the Ron Bonlender Memorial Cruise the Ave; Patti Schneider from the Corvette Club; and Rhonda Cook.

Car Club members told staff that they would like to see the city remove Special Event requirements from Cruising, including cost recovery fees related to YPD services, and to “legalize” cruising on the following dates every year; second Saturday in June, July, August and September, and the third Saturday in June and September.

They also indicated that they could not obtain insurance, despite the fact that the City’s insurance agent indicated a policy could be obtained for approximately \$500.00 per event (lower if all the events were insured at the same time). The City twice prior to the meeting provided the car clubs the contact information from Jeff Widdows regarding applying for the necessary insurance policy. When asked at the meeting, none of the car clubs had contacted Jeff Widdows about the lower cost policy. Car club members were urged to make the necessary contact and secure a quote rather than assume that such a policy was cost prohibitive.

Andrew Holt from Downtown Association of Yakima was also present at the meeting. He indicated that the permit was a good idea to address event management due to the number of people that the events are bringing downtown. There was a discussion of the need for insurance to cover property damage, as well as to cover other possible injuries and damages.

Additionally, car club members did not believe that Cruise Nights should fall under the umbrella of “Special Events” because they were not shutting down the entire road for the event (the road could still be used by non-participants). Staff explained that in some cases, even if a roadway is not shut down that a special event permit is still necessary.