

# CITY OF YAKIMA

## *LEGAL*

## *DEPARTMENT*

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### ***MEMORANDUM***

September 4, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Robert Harrison, City Manager

FROM: Jeff Cutter, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the Downtown Yakima Business Improvement District for Council Discussion

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The City Council initiated discussion regarding the Downtown Yakima Business Improvement District (DYBID) in early 2020. The discussion initially focused on the nature of the assessment values and the parties responsible to pay them, in accordance with the current DYBID terms and conditions. Before there could be any significant progress in discussion of these issues the COVID pandemic struck, resulting in the Governor restricting the content of the Council meetings and effectively terminating the DYBID consideration. Now, here we are months later, and the Council has indicated it would like to return to the conversation that began last February.

Included with this agenda item are 1) this memo, 2) RCW 35.87A that provides all the specific regulatory process associated with Parking and Business Improvement Districts (of which the DYBID is one), 3) the most recent revision of the City's DYBID, last amended in 2012, 4) the resolution that initiated the action taken to amend the previous DYBID to what is now in effect, just to provide some insight on the process involved in amending these ordinances, 5) a statement of the revenues generated by the DYBID assessments, and 6) the Yakima Municipal Code provision providing for the DYBID Advisory Board purpose and process. With regard to the advisory board, I do not believe the group has met, elected officers or conducted any business at all in many years, but it still exists in City ordinance.

The assessments that are collected within the District must be used to provide a "special benefit" to the participating parties that those outside of the District do not receive. Currently the City has contracted with Downtown Yakima Association to provide the services associated with the DYBID within the DYBID district.