



TO: Honorable Mayor and members of the Yakima City Council

FROM: Bob Harrison, City Manager

DATE: January 19, 2021

RE: Update - COVID-19's Effect on City Services and Finances

The COVID-19 emergency has and will continue to present many challenges. The City of Yakima is committed to protecting the health and safety of its employees and customers, the continuity of government services, and the responsible management of the City's finances.

This is to provide an update to the City's COVID response that was reviewed at the January 5, 2021 City Council meeting.

Administration:

Under the Governor's new Healthy Washington plan, the new south central region (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, and Columbia counties) met on January 13 and will be meeting every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 to review and discuss revised protocols.

There's been some inquiries as to when City Hall will be open to the public. Staff confirmed with the Governor's office that public buildings should not open until the region enters phase 2 of the revised Healthy Washington plan. When the building does open it will be limited to 25% occupancy.

Police:

- The Yakima Police Department began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine last week. 57% of YPD employees opted to get the vaccine – which is a high number compared to many public safety agencies around the country.
- The Yakima Police Department has now had ten COVID positive cases and three more suspected cases. There is no evidence that the employees were infected at work and several have already returned. However, out of an abundance of caution, YPD worked with the Yakima Health District to ensure we were following the best practices. The Health District sent representatives to our building and jail two days in a row and made some minor suggestions. It was a good collaborative exercise and hopefully we will see cases decline.
- We are developing a plan for vaccinations. It will likely come sooner for first responders and we want to vaccinate employees in waves (in case the side effects limit employee activity for short periods).
- The Services Division continues to work at a Level 4 (Red) on December 22, 2020. The following are the Services Division occurrences related to COVID-19:
 - Two employees tested positive for COVID-19.
 - As of December 21, 2020, all Services Division employees working at the station were required to wear their face masks, even while working from their desks.

- The Services Division was sprayed with disinfectant, to include the property room, bin room, the room with the blood lockers, lunch room, and door handles.
- All Services Division personnel received an email reminding them to practice social distancing and avoid close contact for more than ten minutes.
- Five staff members were absent, six were telecommuting and nine staff members were available at the station.

Fire:

- The Fire Department, including SunComm employees, had a total of 53 people volunteer to get their first COVID vaccination over the past several days.

Finance:

- NO UPDATES
- The City of Yakima was selected for monitoring by the Department of Commerce (Commerce) for funding from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds for Local Governments. During the monitoring process, Commerce staff worked with the city of Yakima staff to receive fiscal documentation for review.
- The results of the review identified no issues or concerns. The documentation received demonstrated an appropriate use of the funds according to the US Treasury guidance. Commerce thanked the City of Yakima for assisting in this processes, and for all we do to support our community during these challenging times.
- The CARES Act grant ended on November 30 and, with the help of the Purchasing Division, staff has been able to submit the final drawdowns. The City will be receiving the full \$4,249,800 in grant revenues. With the grant revenues, the City was able to help 169 small businesses and 47 non-profits (including 18 with a City relationship).
- The table below shows the different makeup of the grant proceeds.

<u>YCDA</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Business	169	1,179,632.00
Non-Profits	29	259,012.00
Non-Profits with a City R	18	514,345.00
Administration Fee	1	15,000.00
Total Allocated to YCDA		1,967,989.00

Public Works Admin:

- NO UPDATES

Streets:

- NO UPDATES

Refuse:

- NO UPDATES

Water / Wastewater:

- NO UPDATES

Transit:

- NO UPDATES

Engineering:

- NO UPDATES

Parks:

- NO UPDATES
- Staff at the Harman Center has been hosting Facebook live face chats with Santa for kids. They have also had senior citizen “Elf on the Shelf” posts daily on Facebook. In addition, they are conducting a live chat “check in” with the seniors on Wednesdays. They also delivered Christmas cheer cards to seniors; delivering 475 cards and mailed over 900 cards to Harman Center subscribers wishing them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Equipment Rental/Building Maintenance:

- NO UPDATES

Community Development/Codes/Planning/ONDS:

- NO UPDATES

Human Resources:

- NO UPDATES

Airport:

- NO UPDATES

Communications:

- NO UPDATES

Information Technology:

- NO UPDATES

Legal Department:

- NO UPDATES