



TO: Honorable Mayor and members of the Yakima City Council

FROM: Bob Harrison, City Manager

DATE: March 2, 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 February 2, 2021 City Council meeting.

Administration:

Administration staff is working with Convention Center staff to arrange space at the Center for vaccine distribution. One medical provider has made arrangements with the Convention Center to offer a vaccination clinic that was to start the weekend of January 30. Another medical provider is still considering using space at the Convention Center.

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. However, some of the departments are expanding some limited services that must be done in person to appointment only.

Police:

- As we moved into Phase 2 of Washington's Roadmap to Recovery, the Yakima Police Department began offering additional services to community members in Yakima. We are now accepting new Concealed Pistol License (CPL) applications and general fingerprinting requests. The requests can be submitted online through the website www.yakimapolice.org and are being offered by appointment only. Only the applicant will be permitted to access the building at the time of the appointment and a mask is required to be worn. Staff members are following necessary health guidelines to include using personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitizing equipment between appointments.
- 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:

- Several employees have received their second COVID vaccination within the 17 to 21 day window. Initial first dose vaccinations are becoming a little harder to schedule so we have to check on availability before sending employees to the clinic. We are still working with the Office of Emergency Management on first dose availability.
- 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:

- All nine Tahoma Cemetery Tours have been uploaded to our Virtual Recreation Programs page on our website. Here is the link to the Virtual Recreation Programs page: <https://yakimaparks.com/virtual-recreation-programs/>
- 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