

FEB 06 2018

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

January 31, 2018

Mayor Kathy Coffey
City of Yakima
129 North 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901

Honorable Mayor and Members of Yakima City Council

The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association of Yakima and Yakima Valley Tourism have been at the forefront of creating a healthy and vibrant downtown. The millions of dollars in public and private investment that went into revitalizing our downtown have paid huge dividends and brought new life to Yakima and its visiting guests.

A major challenge Yakima and other cities have faced in recent years is the increase in homelessness – especially in downtown areas.


As you know, business owners in Downtown Yakima voice many problems of loitering, litter public urination/defecation, destruction of property, drug deals, prostitution and other illegal activities which they believe have increased in the last five years. This has had a direct and negative impact on our local businesses and potential revenue, and action is needed now.

We respectfully request that City of Yakima

- Take a leading role in swiftly developing additional solutions that lead to real action in abating and minimizing these issues in the downtown area.
- Establish zoning ordinances to create a 'buffer zone' to prevent homeless services on the main arterials of the city.
- Encourage that existing homeless support providers with services in the downtown district be obligated to work collaboratively with local businesses, the city and our organizations to manage the mentioned negative results from the homeless population and those that prey on the homeless.

We want to be part of the solution and will assist any way we can to create a safe place for all residents, customers, guests and visitors plus those currently dealing with homelessness. Please don't wait any longer to address this pressing matter.


Signed,



Victor De Long, Chair
Downtown Association of Yakima



Rich Austin, Chair
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce



John Baule, Chair
Yakima Valley Tourism