

March 11, 2022

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments

311 North 4th Street, Suite 204

Yakima, WA 98901

Dear YVCOG Membership:

The Yakima City Council is providing this letter to provide clarity around the City of Yakima's position to the suggested RCIC proposal.

The City of Yakima is in favor of:

- Yakima County and the other municipalities in the YVCOG increasing their funding and enhancing their crime fighting capabilities through the addition of crime analysts. The enhanced capabilities of our regional neighbors that can coordinate with the City of Yakima's crime analysts will improve capabilities and coordination for all agencies.
- Jointly purchasing the Ninex system and other potential capital investments, equipment, and related training that would benefit the entire region. The City of Yakima Police Chief forwarded additional suggestions for capital equipment that we believe would benefit all police agencies in the region and the City of Yakima would be willing to be a partner and share in those costs.
- Equitable distribution of costs, as the City of Yakima is no longer in a financial position to underwrite costs for other governmental organizations. We have raised this issue with the YVCOG and we have not received a satisfactory response from the YVCOG membership or YVCOG administration regarding the provision of SWAT services, the cost of which is primarily borne by the City of Yakima.

The City of Yakima specific positions on other elements of this proposal are:

- The City of Yakima will not participate in the funding of the regional crime analysts, the YVCOG administrative charge, and other elements related to the operational aspects of the plan. As has been relayed to the YVCOG administration, the City of Yakima invests over \$350,000 annually in staffing three of its own crime analyst positions. To have the City of Yakima fund two additional

crime analysts that will be providing services directly to other municipal organizations and the County and not the City can't be justified to the taxpayers of Yakima.

- We don't believe that the YVCOG has the public safety expertise nor can we justify the YVCOG administrative charge when there is a regional agency, the Yakima County Sheriff, that could manage this service through an interlocal agreement. Management and scheduling of the equipment could be rolled into the Sheriff's daily operations, and if necessary a small fee provided to cover additional costs.

The City of Yakima is willing to continue to have conversations with the YVCOG about this concept within the parameters of what has been identified within this letter. We are committed to continuing to work with all the members of the YVCOG to find opportunities for service or capital investments that make good sense from both a service and financial perspective.

On behalf of the Yakima City Council, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Respectfully,

Janice Deccio
Mayor