

## MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Council members

From: Bob Harrison, City Manager

Date: December 7, 2022

RE: YVCOG crime lab

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On December 13, the City Council will be considering the contract for participation in the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) crime lab. It is the City administration's recommendation not to enter into an agreement for this service as a full member.

While the YVCOG leadership has reported that the City of Yakima is against this proposal, neither the Yakima City Council nor the City administration has ever taken a position against the creation of the YVCOG crime lab. We believe it is a worthwhile investment for the County and other participants to share the costs of crime analysts that can produce actionable intelligence for the various police departments in the Yakima Valley as there is an absence of that information available to those jurisdictions. There may also be additional value to jurisdictions that participate in the crime lab because they don't have those services now.

Our primary concerns are as follows:

- A) That the YVCOG crime lab program is an opt-in program and not considered a base service of the YVCOG. *The YVCOG has structured participation in this program in an opt-in format.*
- B) Avoiding the duplication of costs for services provided by the YVCOG crime lab and what the City of Yakima is already funding within the police and other department budgets. We had requested the opportunity to purchase individual services from the YVCOG that does not duplicate services already being funded by the City. The proposed membership agreement still requires the City to share in all of the funding, even of duplicate services. In our opinion, the City would be best served by being able to purchase individual services in this area similar to how the YVCOG provides planning and regional services on individual contract.
- C) Not being charged for services that are provided by other agencies at no current cost to the City. There are several federal and state agencies that provide the same services that the City can access at no charge.
- D) The contract with the YVCOG needs to meet the City standards for contracts. Initial comments were made by the City Attorney to YVCOG's attorney regarding the City's standards and other amendments to the contract, prior to its final form. Many of the proposals made by the city attorney were not integrated into the final proposed contract in front of you. The city attorney's memo covers this concern in more detail.

Even if the City isn't a full member of the YVCOG crime lab, we would anticipate working closely with the analysts inviting them to briefing meetings with City analysts and other federal partners. The City would also be willing to work with YVCOG on other partnership opportunities.

I have requested the police chief and the city attorney to conduct the presentation on the proposed contract on Tuesday evening. Those presentations are included in your packet.