



**YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
January 5, 2016
City Hall – CM Conference Room
12 noon**

1. Roll Call
2. State Legislative & Administrative Priorities Review
3. The next meeting will be on January 5, 2016 at 5:15 p.m. for an Executive Session and 6:00 p.m. for a Council Business Meeting at City Hall
4. Adjournment

Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Council meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Council. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.

A Council packet is available for review at the City Clerk's Office and the Library. A packet is also available on-line at www.yakimawa.gov.

The City provides special accommodations, such as hearing devices, wheelchair space or language interpreters, for City meetings. Anyone needing special assistance please contact the City Clerk's office at (509) 575-6037.



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 2.
For Meeting of: January 5, 2016

ITEM TITLE: State Legislative & Administrative Priorities Review
SUBMITTED BY: Randy Beehler, Communications & Public Affairs Director

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

The 2016 session of the Washington State Legislature will begin on January 11th. This year's session is an off-year, short session and is scheduled to last no more than 60 days. The City's contracted Olympia lobbyist, Jim Justin, and his subcontractor, Jennifer Ziegler, will brief the City Council regarding the upcoming session and review the City's adopted 2016 State Legislative & Administrative Priorities during the January 5th Special Meeting.

Resolution:

Ordinance:

Other (Specify):

Contract:

Contract Term:

Start Date:

End Date:

Item Budgeted: NA

Amount:

Funding Source/Fiscal Impact: N/A

Strategic Priority: Partnership Development

Insurance Required? No

Mail to:

Phone:

**APPROVED FOR
SUBMITTAL:**

City Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

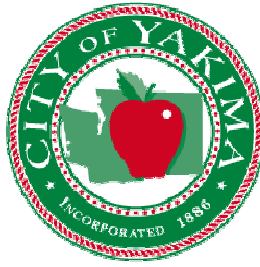
ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Upload Date

Type

2016 legislative priorities	12/28/2015	Cover Memo
2016 Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities	12/24/2015	Cover Memo



City of Yakima
2016
State Legislative and Administrative Priorities

Actively Pursue

- Strengthening access to public records by curbing abusive requests
- Funding partners to assist with North 1st Street and Yakima Central Plaza project costs
- Funding partners to assist with Mill Site infrastructure and landfill cleanup costs
- Amending existing state statutes to accommodate cities being able to be granted administrative warrants to investigate potential building code violations
- Development of a sustainable funding model for gang prevention, intervention, and suppression programs given current funding will expire in 2017
- Development of a sustainable funding model to assist in meeting increased indigent defense costs given current funding will expire in 2017

Support

- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funding requests
- Giving cities more authority regarding liquor license renewals
- Halting the diversion of funds from infrastructure programs that benefit cities, such as the Public Works Trust Fund and the Local Revitalization Financing program
- Adding ~~ability~~ to pay+to considerations regarding labor union arbitration settlements
- Eliminating current requirement for cities to pay medical costs for felons
- Allowing cities to use Real Estate Excise Tax (~~RE~~REET) 2 funds for capital debt service

Monitor

- Efforts to amend the Open Public Meetings Act regarding committee meetings
- Voting Rights Act

Washington's 281 cities and towns are where most residents live, learn, work, and play. Working together, we need to make a concerted and assertive effort to ensure every legislator knows that the state is only as strong as its cities and towns.

Infrastructure

Halt the diversion from critical infrastructure programs to help cities grow and prosper

City infrastructure systems are a critical part of a larger network that serves and benefits the entire state. Diversion from programs that support basic local infrastructure means that communities cannot affordably maintain and secure new infrastructure. We need to reboot, and potentially reformulate this partnership. The state's abandonment of these programs cannot be the only option.

Fiscal Sustainability

Ensure sufficient and flexible revenue for essential city services

The current method of funding city services is fundamentally broken. Many available revenue options are either constricted, restricted, or unpredictable. Cities need stable revenue streams to provide essential services such as public safety, infrastructure, and environmental protection to our growing population.

Emergency Responsiveness

Help cities prepare for and address impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies

As a result of recent experiences with devastating wildfires, landslides, and other emergencies, cities need better ways to address emergency management. Examples include greater ability to coordinate response and enhance communication in emergencies, and the authority to ban fireworks sales and use during dangerous conditions.

Public Records

Strengthen the Public Records Act in response to changing technology and burdensome requests

Cities support open and transparent government and continue to seek the best ways to meet this commitment. Unfortunately, there are a growing number of requestors who monopolize resources with broad, voluminous, commercially-driven, or retaliatory requests that do not provide a public benefit proportionate to the taxpayer dollars needed to fulfill these requests. Cities need additional tools to resolve conflicts outside the courtroom and the authority to charge a reasonable fee for electronic and commercial requests. We also need to address the impact changing technology has on public records.

Human Services, Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Enhance the provision of much needed human service programs to address issues that drive increased homelessness and public safety costs

Cities believe that investment in the state's human services network is necessary. Greater access to mental health and substance abuse services is essential. Cities throughout the state are grappling with affordable housing shortages and homelessness. Together with the state, counties, and other partners, we need to develop strategies to address housing shortages and homelessness in cities of all sizes and locations.

Contact:

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