1. Roll Call

2. Consideration of draft 2017-2018 State and Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities

3. Audience comments (allow 15 minutes)

4. The next meeting will be a City Council Executive Session on September 6, 2016 at 5 p.m. followed by a City Council Business meeting 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers

5. 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 at least two business days prior to the meeting.
ITEM TITLE: Consideration of draft 2017-2018 State and Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities

SUBMITTED BY: Randy Beehler, Communications & Public Affairs Director

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:
Draft 2017-2018 State and Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities (attached) have been developed to reflect recent policy actions taken by the City Council and in order to be consistent with direction provided by the City Council. Additionally, the draft priorities include a few items identified by City administration as important to conducting City business as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Also attached is a memorandum that includes brief descriptions of each of the draft priorities and whether each draft priority is existing or new on the priorities list.

At its August 30th study session, the City Council will be asked to discuss the draft priorities, make any revisions to the draft priorities, and adopt final priorities.

ITEM BUDGETED: NA

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Partnership Development

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Discuss draft 2017-2018 State and Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities, make any revisions to the draft priorities, and adopt final priorities.
## ATTACHMENTS:

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<td>Memorandum - Draft 2017-2018 State and Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities</td>
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Council members,

A Council study session has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 30th beginning at 10:00 am in the Council Chambers at Yakima City Hall. During the study session, draft 2017-2018 State Legislative and Administrative Priorities and draft 2017-2018 Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities (see attachment) will be presented and discussed. Please contact me individually to provide any feedback you may have regarding the draft priorities prior to the August 30th study session. I can be contacted by phone (901-1142), by e-mail (randy.beehler@yakimawa.gov), or in person at City Hall.

The draft priorities have been developed to reflect recent policy actions taken by the City Council and in order to be consistent with direction provided by the City Council. Additionally, the draft priorities include a few items identified by City administration as important to conducting City business as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Following are brief descriptions of the draft priorities. Also denoted is whether the items are Existing or New on the priorities list.

Draft 2017-2018 State Legislative and Administrative Priorities

Actively Pursue

- Passage of the Washington Voting Rights Act – Existing - This item was elevated to the "Actively Pursue" category by the City Council in January 2016. Proposed legislation passed the House during the 2016 session of the legislature but did not pass out of the Senate. Proposed legislation will likely be reintroduced in 2017.

- Efforts to address homelessness locally, regionally, and statewide – New - Consistent with actions taking by the City Council in 2016, this item is proposed to be included in the 2017-2018 State Legislative and Administrative Priorities. Cities statewide are seeking assistance from the legislature to effectively address homelessness.

- Reducing barriers to affordable housing and human services programs – New - Consistent with actions taking by the City Council in 2016, this item is proposed to be included in the 2017-2018 State Legislative and Administrative Priorities. Cities statewide are seeking assistance from the legislature to effectively reduce barriers to affordable housing and human services programs.

- Safe Routes to Schools funding – New - The City has regularly and successfully pursued Safe Routes to Schools funding since the program was established in 2005 by the Washington State Department of Transportation. This item is proposed to be included in the 2017-2018 State Legislative and Administrative Priorities to reflect the City's emphasis on ensuring the safety of students walking to and from school.

- Strengthening access to public records by curbing abusive requests – Existing - This item has been part of the City's State Legislative and Administrative Priorities for several years. Cities statewide are seeking assistance from the legislature in order to respond to public records requests as efficiently and effectively as possible. Legislation introduced during the 2016 legislative session regarding certain revisions to the state's Public Records Act did not advance out of committee, but is likely to be reintroduced during the 2017 session.
- **Ensuring cities have stable, sufficient, and flexible revenue options to provide essential services** – *Existing* - In recent years, state funding assistance to cities has been dramatically curtailed. Cities statewide are seeking assistance from the legislature in order to provide greater ability by local governing bodies to utilize existing and/or new funding options in order to generate sufficient revenue to meet essential services needs.

- **Funding to assist with Mill Site infrastructure and landfill cleanup** – *Existing* – This item has been part of the City's State Legislative and Administrative Priorities for several years. Funding requests from appropriate state sources, such as House and Senate capital budgets, the Washington State Department of Ecology, etc., will likely be made in the next two years.

**Support**

- **Full funding of the Washington State Basic Law Enforcement Academy** – *New* - Cities statewide are seeking assistance from the legislature to restore full funding of the state's Basic Law Enforcement Academy in order to reduce wait times for new officers to complete their initial training. Current funding levels provide for 10 academy classes annually. It is estimated 18 to 20 classes are needed each year to meet existing demand. Long wait times for new officers to complete academy training create financial burdens for cities.

- **Development of a sustainable funding model for gang prevention, intervention, and suppression programs given current funding will expire in 2017** – *Existing* – This item has been part of the City's State Legislative and Administrative Priorities for the past two years. Existing state funding is scheduled to end in 2017 for gang prevention, intervention, and suppression programs, so if no action is taken by the legislature in 2017, no further funding will be available.

- **Development of a sustainable funding model to assist in meeting increased indigent defense costs given current funding will expire in 2017** – *Existing* – This item has been part of the City's State Legislative and Administrative Priorities for the past two years. Existing state funding is scheduled to end in 2017 to assist in meeting increased indigent defense costs, so if no action is taken by the legislature in 2017, no further funding will be available.

- **More equitable allocation of federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation ("FAST") Act funding to local infrastructure requests** – *New* - Washington State should receive about $4 billion in federal FAST funds in 2017. The current allocation model distributes 66% of those funds to state transportation projects and programs and 34% to local projects and programs. Cities statewide are asking the legislature to consider allocating a greater percentage of FAST funds to local projects and programs.

**Monitor**

- **Efforts to amend the Open Public Meetings Act** – *Existing* – Legislation has been introduced during recent legislative sessions to make public employee collective bargaining sessions open to the public. Such legislation has not advanced to a floor vote in either the House or the Senate. Similar legislation is expected to be introduced during the 2017 session.

- **Efforts to require Washington State driver’s licenses to be REAL ID compliant** – *New* – Congress adopted the REAL ID Act in 2005 requiring states to adopt minimum standards for government-issued identification that may be required to be produced in order to enter federal buildings or board commercial airplanes. The act also requires ID applicants to provide proof of identity and legal U.S. residency and for states to use counterfeit-resistant security features in IDs issued by state agencies. Washington State has not yet complied with the REAL ID Act, but must do so by 2018. Washington State is currently the only state in the country that does not require proof of legal U.S. residency to get a standard state driver’s license or ID. A bill (SB 6678) has been introduced and will be considered by the legislature during the 2017 session.
Draft 2017-2018 Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities

**Actively Pursue**

- **Efforts to address homelessness locally, regionally, and nationally** – **New** - Consistent with actions taken by the City Council in 2016, this item is proposed to be included in the 2017-2018 Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities. Cities across the U.S. are seeking assistance from Congress to effectively address homelessness.

- **Reducing barriers to affordable housing and human services programs** – **New** - Consistent with actions taking by the City Council in 2016, this item is proposed to be included in the 2017-2018 Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities. Cities across the U.S. are seeking assistance from Congress to effectively reduce barriers to affordable housing and human services programs.

- **Increased funding for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ("OJJDP") and other federal programs designed to combat gang crime and violence** – **Existing** – This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for several years. Federal funding to assist local governments in combating gang crime and violence has been limited in recent years, which has hampered local efforts to address issues related to gang crime and violence.

- **Funding partners to assist with North 1st Street project** – **Existing** - This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for the last few years. An application by the City in 2016 for Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies ("FASTLANE") funds was denied. The City intends to continue to pursue all potential funding sources for the North 1st Street Revitalization project.

- **Funding from the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ("TIFIA") program and other available federal sources for critical local transportation projects such as development of streets serving the Mill Site project and the Yakima East-West Corridor project** – **Existing** - This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for the last few years. Although specific requests for federal funding for transportation infrastructure serving the Mill Site project and the Yakima East-West Corridor project are not imminent, it serves the City well to begin familiarizing potential sources with the projects given funding requests will be made in the future.

- **Support of efforts to secure Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment grants** – **Existing** – This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for several years. The City has regularly and successfully pursued federal funding to assist it in cleaning up contaminated sites. Specific requests for federal funding to assist in the cleanup of sites such as the former Mill Site landfill location are likely to be made in the future.

**Support**

- **Efforts by eligible local entities to secure funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s ("HUD") “Choice Neighborhoods” program** – **New** – Interest has been expressed by some community members for the City to pursue potential partnership opportunities available through the "Choice Neighborhoods" program, which is designed to assist local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, to come together to create and implement a plan that transforms distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood.

- **Ongoing funding assistance provided to local public safety entities through programs such as Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS"), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response ("SAFER"), and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants ("LLEBG")** – **Existing** – This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for several years. The City has regularly and successfully pursued federal funding from sources such...
as COPS, SAFER, LLEBG, etc. Given ongoing threats to these and other federal funding sources, it is in the City's best interests to continue to solicit Congressional support for such funding.

- **Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funding requests** – New – Formally adopted in 2012, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan ("YBIP") is a multi-decade effort to address a variety of water resource and ecosystem problems affecting fish passage and habitat, agricultural, and municipal domestic water supplies. In recent years, state funding has been provided to implement several early elements of the YBIP. Requests for federal funding for implementation of additional elements are currently being made.

- **Development of pilot programs (with accompanying funding) to assist cities in the creation of innovative solutions to combat crime and violence** – Existing – This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for the last few years. Several federal funding sources are available for programs that combat crime and violence, but programs must meet strict criteria to be eligible for funding. Cities across the U.S. are asking Congress to approve minimal funding for programs that may not meet existing strict criteria, but do utilize innovative and inventive approaches toward combatting crime and violence.

- **Continued funding of the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") program at current or increased levels** – Existing – This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for the last few years. The City relies heavily on its CDBG allocation to fund multiple programs and services through its Office of Neighborhood Development. In recent years, local CDBG allocations have been unpredictable and, in some instance, decreased.

- **Development of adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding for airport capital projects and airport economic development projects** – Existing – The City has benefited from federal funding, particularly from the Federal Aviation Administration, which has allowed improvements to be made to the Yakima Air Terminal. Some potential funding sources for airport improvements, however, are difficult for a facility the size of Yakima's to qualify for. Providing predictable, sustainable funding sources for airports like Yakima's to access could assist in the City's overall economic development efforts.

- **Efforts to normalize and make consistent regulations and taxing authority applicable to providers of communication services regardless of delivery method (i.e. wireless, satellite, cable, telephony, internet, etc.)** – Existing – This item has been part of the City's Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities for several years. Federal regulation of communications services has not kept pace with the rapid technological advancements in the industry that have occurred in recent years, resulting in inconsistent taxing and other authority delegated to local governments. Greater uniformity in regulating communications providers would provide greater predictability for local governments.
City of Yakima
2017 - 2018
State Legislative and Administrative Priorities

**Actively Pursue**
- Passage of the Washington Voting Rights Act
- Efforts to address homelessness locally, regionally, and statewide
- Reducing barriers to affordable housing and human services programs
- Safe Routes to Schools funding
- Strengthening access to public records by curbing abusive requests
- Ensuring cities have stable, sufficient, and flexible revenue options to utilize to provide essential services
- Funding partners to assist with Mill Site infrastructure and landfill cleanup costs

**Support**
- Full funding of the Washington State Basic Law Enforcement Academy
- 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
- More equitable allocation of federal Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (“FAST”) Act funding to local infrastructure projects

**Monitor**
- Efforts to amend the Open Public Meetings Act
- Efforts to require Washington State driver’s licenses to be REAL ID compliant
City of Yakima
2017-2018
Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities

**Actively Pursue**

- Efforts to address homelessness locally, regionally, and nationally
- Reducing barriers to affordable housing and human services programs
- Increased funding for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ("OJJDP") and other federal programs designed to combat gang crime and violence
- Funding partners to assist with North 1st Street project costs
- Funding from the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ("TIFIA") program and other available federal sources for critical local transportation projects such as development of streets serving the Mill Site project and the Yakima East-West Corridor project
- Support of efforts to secure Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment grants

**Support**

- Efforts by eligible local entities to secure funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Choice Neighborhoods" program
- Ongoing funding assistance provided to local public safety entities through programs such as Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS"), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response ("SAFER"), and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants ("LLEBG")
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funding requests
- Development of pilot programs (with accompanying funding) to assist cities in the creation of innovative solutions to combat crime and violence
- Continued funding of the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") program at current or increased levels
- Development of adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding for airport capital projects and airport economic development projects
- Efforts to normalize and make consistent regulations and taxing authority applicable to providers of communication services regardless of delivery method (i.e. wireless, satellite, cable, telephony, internet, etc.)