



Don Anderson  
Mayor

November 20, 2015

Jason Whalen  
Deputy Mayor

Mary Moss  
Councilmember

Michael D. Brandstetter  
Councilmember

John Simpson  
Councilmember

Marie Barth  
Councilmember

Paul Bocchi  
Councilmember

John J. Caulfield  
City Manager

## NOTICE

### LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL MEETING WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

Notice is hereby given that the Lakewood City Council will be meeting with State legislators on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., at Lakewood City Hall, City Council Chambers, 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, Washington.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Revised 2015-2017 Legislative Agenda and Legislative Policy Manual.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice M. Bush".

Alice M. Bush, MMC  
City Clerk



**LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AGENDA**

Tuesday, November 24, 2015  
6:00 P.M.  
City of Lakewood  
Council Chambers  
6000 Main Street SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499

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Page No.

**Call to Order**

- ( 3 ) Review of the Revised 2015-2017 Legislative Agenda and Legislative Policy Manual**

**Adjournment**

*The Council Chambers is accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons requesting special accommodations or language interpreters should contact the City Clerk's Office, 589-2489, as soon as possible in advance of the Council meeting so that an attempt to provide the special accommodations can be made.*

<http://www.cityoflakewood.us>

*City Hall will be closed 15 minutes after adjournment of the meeting.*



## 2015-2017 Biennial Legislative Agenda (Revised)

The City of Lakewood adopts a biennial legislative agenda. Thanks to the efforts of the City's legislative delegation, the City accomplished a great deal during the 2015 legislative session, including securing funding for the I-5 JBLM corridor, Point Defiance Bypass rail safety, Springbrook Park, and the Western State Hospital Community Policing Program. At the same time, there is more to do to keep Lakewood moving into the future. The City has amended the biennial legislative agenda for the 2016 session to include the following:

### **Fort Steilacoom Park: Transfer Ownership**

Fort Steilacoom Park is currently owned by the state (DSHS), and leased to the City of Lakewood. As the lessee, the City has been the primary caretaker of the park, performing daily maintenance and making significant investments and improvements to the site. The City supports transfer of ownership from the State to the City, which requires legislative authorization. The City of Chehalis accomplished ownership transfer for Stan Hedwall Park in the 2013-15 state biennial budget. Coordination with Pierce College, property adjacent to the park and also a state lessee, will be necessary to adjust boundary lines and discuss future impacts to operations.

### **Capital Funding Request: Fort Steilacoom Park improvements**

Fort Steilacoom Park accommodates over 1 million visitors each year. The combination of aging infrastructure and high volumes of use require that the City invest in improving the utilities and roads at this site. Lakewood requests \$1.5 million to extend water, sewer and electric utilities to building structures in the park and to improve the main road into the park and parking areas near the historic barn buildings.

### **Support for WSDOT Funding Request: Relocation of WSDOT Maintenance Facility in Lakewood**

Lakewood supports funding of \$16 million to relocate the WSDOT Maintenance Facility currently located in Lakewood on Pacific Highway South. The relocation of this facility is critical in supporting the economic development goals of the City. Lakewood has identified a comparable location within the City that would allow for easy access to I-5. The relocation of this facility is a win-win for both the City and for Washington State.

### **I-5 JBLM Corridor**

The I-5 JBLM corridor is fully funded in the transportation revenue package adopted by the Legislature. The City will work with WSDOT to ensure timely progress of the project. The City will continue to advocate for any appropriations or policy changes needed to advance the project in the best interests of our community and region.

### **Support Military Affairs Funding**

The City is a strong partner with Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) and a founding member of the South Sound Military Communities Partnership (SSMCP). The City supports the ongoing efforts of the SSMCP and supports policy decisions that assist JBLM. The City also believes in a strong commitment from the State in support of military affairs, such as: maintaining the Governor's Subcabinet on Military Downsizing; strengthening financial, legislative and political support for military presence in Washington State in anticipation of future force restructuring or defense contract reductions due to sequestration, Department of Defense budget reductions, and/or base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds; continuing to support the Washington Military Alliance (WMA); and providing financial assistance for local military advocacy agencies such as Forward Fairchild, the Puget Sound Naval Bases Association, and SSMCP. \$1 million would provide a strong investment in support of these military affairs.



### **Contact Information:**

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# CITY OF LAKEWOOD

## LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

REVISED BY CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 19, 2015

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### COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

#### **I-5 JBLM Corridor**

The I-5 JBLM corridor is fully funded in the transportation revenue package adopted by the Legislature. The City will work with WSDOT to ensure timely progress of the project. The City will continue to advocate for any appropriations or policy changes needed to advance the project in the best interests of our community and region.

#### **South Sound Military & Communities Partnership and Joint Base Lewis McChord**

The City is a strong partner with Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) and a founding member of the South Sound Military Communities Partnership (SSMCP). JBLM is an employment hub for the City of Lakewood, and Lakewood has the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city population of active duty service members in the greater Pierce and Thurston Counties region.

The SSMCP's mission is to foster communication, understanding and mutual benefit by serving as the most effective point of coordination for resolution of those issues which transcend the specific interests of the military and civilian communities of the South Sound region. Its membership includes Pierce and Thurston County local governments, JBLM and the WA Military Department, and economic development, social services, health care, educational, transportation, and military support organizations. Current SSMCP priorities include expanding missions at JBLM and thus spurring local economic development off base; workforce transition; active duty, military family and veteran awareness of health care and social service availability; and increasing state level support of military presence in Washington.

The City of Lakewood supports the ongoing efforts of the SSMCP and supports policy decisions that assist JBLM. The City also believes in a strong commitment from the State in support of military affairs, such as maintaining the Governor's Subcabinet on Military Downsizing; strengthening financial, legislative and political support for military presence in Washington in anticipation of future force restructuring or defense contract reductions due to sequestration, Department of Defense budget reductions, and/or base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds; continuing to support the Washington Military Alliance (WMA), and providing financial assistance for local military advocacy agencies such as Forward Fairchild, the Puget Sound Naval Bases Association, and SSMCP.

#### **Economic Development Tools**

The City supports programs that may be developed to assist local governments in improvement of neighborhood residential and commercial area rehabilitation, through tax incentives, grants, loans and other programs. The City also supports legislation that provides economic development tools that the City may use if it so chooses. This legislation includes, but is not limited to: the multi-family housing tax incentive, tax increment financing, lodging tax, the Main



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Street Act (a series of small tax incentives for neighborhood business districts), complete streets grant program, community facility financing, shared state revenue for construction of convention and special event centers, additional shared state revenue for urban renewal and other public facility improvements, and innovative approaches to property tax assessment that reduces the current incentive to allow property to remain blighted.

### **Annexation**

The City believes that annexation laws should encourage the logical development and expansion of the City to provide for a healthy and growing local economy and efficient services. The law should also facilitate and ease the annexation of unincorporated islands adjacent to City limits. The City supports legislation that will further modify state annexation laws to reduce the administrative process of annexation and further encourage and incentivize annexation of existing unincorporated islands.

### **Boundary Review Board**

Boundary Review Boards are a quasi-judicial administrative body empowered to make decisions on such issues as incorporations, annexations, extensions of utilities, etc. by cities, towns, and special purpose districts. These Boards can approve, deny, or modify a proposal. Decisions are appealable to the Pierce County Superior Court. Because most issues are appealed to the Superior Court the City of Lakewood believes the Boundary Review Boards are duplicative and supports legislation that results in their elimination.

### **Local Authority for Land Use and Planning**

Local governments must maintain final decision making authority on local zoning, land use, and planning, including local zoning and regulation of house-banked card rooms and other businesses. Specifically, the City opposes any effort by either the State Legislature or Congress to preempt local land use or taxation authority.

### **Infrastructure Funding**

Local agencies, including the City of Lakewood, lack resources for infrastructure funding. As a result, city roads remain in disrepair; general fund dollars are taken from other important services to repair roads; or a combination thereof. Given that the Public Works Assistance Account has been discontinued, the city supports the state developing new infrastructure funding programs that are viable in the current political climate.

### **Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry**

The City of Lakewood is in need of state assistance to improve, maintain and expand its local park system and the open space areas of the City. The City supports ongoing funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and the Youth Athletic Fund (YAF).



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### **Limiting Additional Freight on Point Defiance Bypass (Lakeview Rail Line)**

With the development of the Point Defiance Bypass project in support of AMTRAK passenger rail coupled with increasing demands on freight rail, there is concern that the Point Defiance Bypass project could eventually lead to carrying increased freight traffic in addition to new passenger rail. The City opposes increased freight traffic along this corridor that is above and beyond the activity already in place and does not have a destination point within Lakewood.

## **FINANCE**

### **State-Shared Revenues**

The City supports restoration and continued appropriation of committed state shared funds, such as Liquor Excise Taxes and Profits, Streamlined Sales Tax Mitigation, City-County Assistance Account, Municipal Criminal Justice Account, Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and public health funding. Support legislation that provides cities with tax revenue from the sale of marijuana.

### **Fiscal Home Rule (alternative to State-Shared Revenues)**

The city recognizes that it is increasingly difficult for the state to continue its historic role of providing state-shared revenues to the local level. The city will evaluate fiscal home rule proposals as they are introduced.

### **General Fund Revenue**

The City supports legislation that will increase, expand, or favorably restructure its revenue-raising ability. In consideration of the continued growth in demand for services that exceed revenue growth and inflation, the City supports the following revenue options:

- Give local governments increased local option flexibility in all areas of taxing authority.
- Eliminate remaining non-supplanting language and restrictions on use of certain revenues in local option tax authority. This language excessively limits City Council discretion regarding funding priorities.

### **City Financial Liability for Offender Medical Costs**

The City supports legislative proposals that reduce the cities' financial liability for offender medical costs. Cities and counties are financially responsible for medical costs associated with an offender's injuries incurred during the commission of a crime, even if that individual has insurance. This is inequitable and is challenging for local agencies to budget. The city supports proposals that change this current practice.

### **Unfunded Mandates & Other State & Federal Budget Impacts**

Mandates from the Federal and State governments are rarely accompanied with adequate new revenues or taxing authority, but instead force the City to reduce funding levels for other



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services. The City opposes efforts by the State Legislature to balance budgets by shifting responsibilities to cities.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **Authority to Appoint Municipal Court Judges**

The City supports cities' ability to appoint a municipal court judge and to maintain courts and supports further technical and financial assistance for the administration of municipal courts.

#### **Traffic Enforcement Cameras**

The Legislature has authorized local government to use traffic enforcement cameras in limited situations, including red light enforcement at certain intersections and speed control in school zones. Traffic enforcement cameras have proven to be a success in reducing instances of speeding and violation of traffic signals. The City supports the use of traffic enforcement cameras. The City also supports legislation allowing images from traffic enforcement cameras to be used by law enforcement in criminal cases if there is probable cause.

#### **Police Body Cameras**

Advancements in technology now enable law enforcement agencies to equip their police officers with body-worn cameras. However, current state laws around public disclosure impede the use of this technology. The city supports legislation that removes barriers to the use of police body cameras.

#### **Permanent Funding for the Western State Hospital Community Policing Program**

Since 2007 the City has operated a highly effective neighborhood policing team to respond to hundreds of calls for police service at Western State Hospital. The City of Lakewood requests permanent funding for this program at a level that covers the full cost of the program. The City also requests that the funding amount appropriated to the community policing program be re-assessed if Western State Hospital expands.

#### **Jail and Court Costs**

The City supports legislative proposals that reduce jail and court costs, and maintain the City's flexibility in providing jail and court services. The City supports additional funding for local grants through the Office of Public Defense, and clarifying local authority to set standards for public defenders. The City also supports maintaining the flexibility to select the most appropriate manner in which to provide jail services.

#### **Release of Offenders to County of Origin**

The City supported legislation that expanded Department of Correction's "county of origin" policy that sends offenders back to their county of origin upon release, to also include offenders released from the Special Commitment Center operated by the Department of Social



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and Health Services. The City will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the expansion of this policy.

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

#### **McCleary Decision**

The City encourages the state to satisfy the McCleary Supreme Court decision, and develop a plan on how to fully fund education by 2018. In doing so, the City requests that the Legislature recognize quality schools also need to be located in quality communities. As such, fully funding education should not be done at the expense of funding allocated to local governments.

#### **Public Records & Open Meetings**

The City respects the right of the public to have access to legitimate public records and documents. The City believes its ability to recover the costs of searching for, gathering and reviewing requested documents is also in the public's interest. The City supports reasonable reforms to the public records act. The City opposes requiring the recording of executive sessions or other restrictions on legitimate uses of executive sessions.

#### **Regulating Enhanced Service Facilities**

In 2013, legislation passed allowing adult family homes to transition to enhanced service facilities (ESFs). Because of the City's proximity to Western State Hospital, it has a significant number of adult family homes that under this new law could be transitioned into ESFs. For example, the neighborhood of Oakbrook, directly north of Western State Hospital, has 26 adult family homes. ESFs are intended to serve those that have greater needs than those in an adult family home. The City is concerned that ESFs should not be located in residential areas in the same manner as adult family homes. This last interim, DSHS completed rulemaking on the regulations that Enhanced Service Facilities must follow. The City supports legislative changes that impose greater regulation on ESFs than is included in the adopted rules.