



CITY OF LAKEWOOD PIERCE COUNTY POLICY MANUAL

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 19, 2020

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional Planning

The City supports the continued partnership between Pierce County and other municipalities within the county concerning regional planning and transportation issues. Lakewood is a proud member jurisdiction of the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC), which was created to ensure local planning between Pierce County municipalities is accomplished in a coordinated, efficient, and consistent manner. The primary responsibility of the PCRC is to ensure that the Growth Management Act requirements are coordinated within the region.

Regional Planning – Puget Sound Regional Council

The City supports a more equitable sharing of federal transportation dollars by the governing Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

The City also supports the limitation of PSRC’s authority and scope to that identified in Chapter RCW 47.80 and 23 USC § 134. In its Interlocal Agreement, the mission of PSRC is identified,

“to preserve and enhance the quality of life in the central Puget Sound area. In so doing, it shall prepare, adopt, and maintain goals, policy, and standards for regional transportation and regional growth management in the central Puget Sound area, in accordance with federal and state law and based on local comprehensive plans of jurisdictions within the region.” (emphasis added.)

However, PSRC’s continually expanding reach now includes: the establishment of Multi-County Planning Policies; a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and Growth Shares; and implementation activities including VISION 2050 adoption and interpretation. The City opposes any incursion by PSRC into local land use, housing issues and equity issues.

Regional Planning – Metropolitan Planning Organization

The City would support, and take the lead on, forming a Pierce County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) as alternatives to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

Tax Increment Financing

The City joins Association of Washington Cities (AWC) in supporting efforts to create a tax increment financing option for cities.



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Annexations

Annexations should encourage the logical development and expansion of the City to provide for a healthy and growing local economy and efficient provision of urban services.

Arrowhead/Partridge Glenn

Annexation of this “urban island” has been attempted three times; twice by the Town of Steilacoom in 1995 and 1996, and once by Lakewood in 1997. All three annexation attempts failed at the ballot by an increasingly larger margin. The Town of Steilacoom, West Pierce Fire and Rescue, and Pierce County are not opposed to Lakewood annexing this area. The City would support and take the lead on, the annexation of this area *if, and only if Pierce County* addresses this area’s aging infrastructure prior to annexation.

Camp Murray

The City and Camp Murray leadership are actively evaluating this potential annexation.

Joint Base Lewis McChord

Lakewood’s Urban Growth Area (UGA) includes the urban area of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). Over the past two decades JBLM has significantly developed this area. The City would consider annexing this area in the future, contingent on County approval, to include revising the existing agreement between the City and the County. The City would consider an incremental approach to annexing this area that would start with the annexation of American Lake Veteran’s Administration Medical Center and American Lake Veterans Golf Course.

Lakewood Population Allocations

Pierce County is currently reviewing countywide population allocations which are ultimately adopted by the Pierce County Council. Per PSRC population allocations, the Pierce County core cities of Lakewood, Puyallup, University Place, and Auburn are expected to absorb a large share of the MPO’s population growth (23%), see Vision 2050. However, unique situations and existing spatial constraints can affect the ability of individual jurisdictions to meet these targets. In Lakewood, the population and employment base is directly tied to the level of soldiers and contractors stationed or working at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). In addition, there are several existing spatial constraints in Lakewood, including: JBLM’s Air Corridor zones, several lakes, large tracts of public lands (including parks, Western State Hospital properties and the South Puget Sound Urban Wildlife Area), existing developments, and inadequate infrastructure. Lakewood’s forthcoming population allocation need to reflect these constraints. Lakewood is seeking support from Pierce County for the following: Policy direction must be developed for inclusion in the Countywide Planning Policies, individual Comprehensive Plans, and other appropriate documents that provide individual jurisdictions the ability to adjust population and employment targets based on situations or issues outside the ability to govern.

Libraries

The City continues its commitment improve its partnership with the Pierce County Library System.



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COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESILIENCE

Behavioral Health & Chemical Dependency Tools

The City recognizes the important need for new or expanded behavioral health and chemical dependency tools in Pierce County. The City finds that the most advantageous way to leverage these types of tools is at a regional level as it allows for more comprehensive planning and better coordination for multidimensional and multijurisdictional issues. The City supports a regional funding approach for new or expanded behavioral health and chemical dependency treatment services consistent with identifiable needs.

Flood Control Zone District

The City encourages the County to move the FCZD to a tiered rate based on risk of flooding. The City supports using flood control funds to mitigate existing risks rather than subsidize new development within the flood zone. The City is also concerned with the potential for the governing board to impose the maximum rate allowable.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Transfer of E911 Tax from Pierce County DEM to South Sound 911

With the formation of South Sound 911 (SS911) in 2012, Pierce County now has a single emergency service call and dispatch center. All Lakewood citizens with phones (including cellular) pay the county E911 tax of \$0.70 per phone line per month of which SS911 receives \$0.20. The remaining \$0.50 continues to be allocated to Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM). The City supports allocating more of the E911 tax to SS911 to offset operational dispatch costs.

Release of Offenders to County of Origin

The City requests that the County advocate at the state level for legislation that addresses “fair share” and expands the “county of origin” policy of that sends offenders back to their county of origin upon release, including sex offenders released from the state’s only Special Commitment Center located on McNeil Island, and civil commitment patients released from Western State Hospital. The City requests that this legislation include sufficient enforcement mechanisms to ensure that “fair share” and “county of origin” are properly applied to released offenders and civil commitment patients. The City will continue to monitor the Western State Hospital Task Force’s evaluation of Pierce County resources.



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Adult Family Home Businesses

The City requests that the County advocate at the state level to address growing community and public safety concerns related to Adult Family Home businesses (AFHs). AFHs serve adults with functional limitations who need personal and special care. The City of Lakewood has become aware of public safety concerns within AFHs.

The City supports legislation comparable to the following bills introduced in the previous session (2019-20) by 28th district legislators to respond to the concerns from the Lakewood community, including:

- **House Bill 1825 – 2019-20**, required civilly committed sexually violent predators (SVPs) petitioning for conditional release to a less restrictive alternative (LRA) to document efforts to find placement in the county of commitment. The intent of the bill was to do the following: 1) require the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to review proposed conditional release LRA placement plans and report to the court with potential alternative placements in certain circumstances; 2) impose school-proximity restrictions on residential placements for certain SVPs on LRA orders; 3) modify the criteria that courts must consider in deciding conditional release petitions for SVPs; 4) require community notification of any change of address of a conditionally released SVP; 5) provide that secure community transition facilities may be sited in any county in the state; and 6) implements Department of Health credential waivers for sex offender treatment providers working in under-served counties.
- **House Bill 1826 – 2019-20**, required the DSHS to disclose publicly accessible and relevant criminal history for certain persons during the discharge planning process. The bill would have also imposed a civil penalty of \$5,000 for the misuse and unauthorized disclosure of protected health information by an entity authorized to receive the information.
- **Senate Bill 5038 – 2019-20**, required limits on who could be placed in an adult family home. Individuals committed under the involuntary treatment act where the court has made an affirmative special finding are prohibited from being placed in an AFH. The bill also prohibited a person committed as a sexually violent predator from being placed in an adult family home and established enhanced services facilities as the appropriate long-term care option for sexually violent predators.

State Hospital Reentry Program

The City supports language that would expand the reentry community safety program. The current program is designed for individuals being released from a correctional facility. The city supports expanding the program to apply to patients who are civilly committed after prosecution for a violent offense or who are civilly committed based on criminal insanity.



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Enhanced Services Facilities

Enhanced Service Facilities (ESFs) serve adults with mental and chemical disorders or other impairments that require supervision and daily care. The City requests that the County advocate for legislation that would prohibit Adult Family Home businesses (AFHs) from converting to ESFs, as well as legislation that would prohibit the citing of ESFs in residential neighborhoods.

Video Arraignment

Currently, the County does not provide video arraignment at the Pierce County Jail. The City requests that the County find solutions to the issues impeding their ability to provide this service.

Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

The City relies on the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for effective adjudication of significant offenders. There is currently a significant backlog of criminal cases that have not yet been filed, including Lakewood cases. The City would like to see consistent, transparent and timely felony charging and filing. In addition, it is our position that both the City and the Pierce County's Prosecuting Attorney's Office would greatly benefit from regular communication regarding the cases reviewed."

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Pierce County Transportation Coordinating Committee

The City recommends that the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) increase the transparency of the Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC), particularly in regards to how TCC scores and determines funding recommendations. As part of this, TCC should make scoring criteria and project score cards available to all member jurisdictions at the end of the scoring process when presented to TCC by subcommittee. Furthermore, the City recommends that PCRC solicit feedback from member jurisdictions on TCC's existing project selection process.

Pierce County Sewer Utility

The City urges Pierce County to proactively plan for and build sewer system expansions in passed over areas of the county's urban areas. These "infill" expansions would encourage efficient development and expansion of infrastructure systems. Historically, Pierce County has not proactively planned for, or built, sewer system expansions in its service area. Rather, private development has been required to extend sewer main systems, with the opportunity to seek at least partial reimbursement via latecomer agreements for oversizing lines to anticipate future development. This policy has led to older, urban sections of the county not having sewer access, and has encouraged leap-frog development, inconsistent with the Growth Management Act. The Pierce County Sewer Utility should change its capital facility planning policies and practices to "do business as a business," meaning that it should be willing and able to construct sewer extensions into incorporated areas. Lakewood would readily participate in the pending update to the Unified Sewer Plan to assist with updating utility policies.



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Multimodal Transportation Study

The City urges Pierce County to support a request that the Legislature allocate \$250,000 for a multimodal transportation assessment to consider practical solutions to increase multimodal connectivity along the I-5 corridor between DuPont and Lakewood. The study will include options that take advantage of already funded grade separated crossings and increase connectivity between Sound Transit and Amtrak using existing or planned infrastructure. This will support the movement of people through the growing South Sound corridor - including Lakewood, DuPont, Joint Base Lewis McChord, and areas of unincorporated Pierce County, including Parkland and Spanaway. This is supported by Sound Transit, JBLM, Pierce Transit, Lakewood Water District, West Pierce Fire & Rescue and the Clover Park School District.

Future Commercial Airfields - JBLM

The City urges Pierce County to oppose the use of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) as a commercial air field. The [Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission](#) (CACC), a group created by the state legislature that is tasked with recommending a new primary commercial aviation facility in Washington, elected to keep JBLM on its list of potential sites even with strong opposition from the congressional delegation, significant concerns raised by the military, identification of the site as having high congestion issues, no transit service, and rated “unlikely” by WSDOT and “unable to accommodate commercial air service” by PSRC.



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MILITARY AFFAIRS

North Clear Zone

The City requests Pierce County's continued partnership in vacating the Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) North Clear Zone (NCZ), the federally-designated, 3,000-by-3,000-foot safety corridor adjacent to the end of the runway with the highest statistical possibility of aircraft accidents. The NCZ lies partly within the City of Lakewood, and currently includes multiple commercial and industrial businesses that are incompatible with JBLM operations and violate its Air Installation Compatibility Use Zones (AICUZ) safety standards. Lakewood and Pierce County have signed an agreement signifying a commitment to execute a long-range plan that will restore this area to an uninhabited state; the City asks that this agreement continue to be a priority for the County in its local actions and state-level advocacy efforts.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Innovative Service Solutions

The City supports innovative service solutions and technological advancements that would provide mutual benefits for Pierce County and Lakewood. To improve the delivery of municipal services, the City supports contracting with the County for selective services and advocates for technological advancements in the County's video arraignment and continued development of the online building/permit platforms. The City eager to see the results and advancement of recent innovative service collaborations with Pierce County including PALS+ and traffic signal contracting.