



2023-2024 State Legislative Agenda

The City looks forward to continuing its partnership with its legislative delegation to improve the overall quality of life for everyone that calls Lakewood home.

Partnership with Nisqually Indian Tribe on Fort Steilacoom Park Improvements: The City of Lakewood and the Nisqually Indian Tribe are partnering to develop interpretive installations on public lands within the City. These installations feature the unique culture and history of the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The pilot project at Fort Steilacoom Park will add signage, art, and interpretive information throughout the park, providing an introduction to the Nisqually people, Chief Leschi's legacy and exposure to the Lushootseed language. The total project cost is \$300,000, with the City committing \$50,000. The City, in partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, is requesting \$250,000 to fully fund the historical and cultural enrichments at Fort Steilacoom Park.

LASA Affordable Housing Project: Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) provides emergency housing, rapid rehousing and transitional housing in Lakewood, in addition to case management, and a range of other services to prevent homelessness. LASA is planning to construct roughly 25 affordable low-income housing units in Lakewood. LASA is pursuing funding from city, county, state and philanthropic sources with an anticipated groundbreaking in 2024. Pierce County has committed \$3.5 million and the City is seeking \$2.5 million in federal funding. The City is also considering an allocation of funds to this project. On behalf of LASA, the City requests \$500,000 from the capital budget for this project.

Public Safety: The City supports a commonsense and meaningful approach to public safety policies that protect lives and property and do not erode trust in government. Examples include revisiting the crime of possession of a controlled substance, revisiting restrictions on vehicular pursuits, and increasing investments in alternative responses teams, such as the City's Behavioral Health Contact Team.

Western State Hospital Community Partnership Program: Since 2007 the City has operated a highly effective Community Partnership Program (CPP) that creates a safer environment for both the hospital and surrounding neighborhoods. The CPP provides consistency in response to criminal cases, case management and increased safety for hospital patients and staff. The City requests ongoing funding for continued operation of the program.

Geographic Equity in Discharge from State Facilities: The City appreciates the State's recent efforts to move toward a more community-based behavioral health system. This transition presents an opportunity to not only provide more accessible services to those who need it most, but also for the facilities to be more geographically disbursed. Based on the findings from the Residential Facilities report, the State should invest in long term care facilities in all underserved regions of the state. Secondly, building upon the work of the Sex Offender Policy Board, the state should clarify that fair share principles apply to sexually violent predators released from state hospitals and secure community transition facilities.

Contact Information:

John J. Caulfield, City Manager
City of Lakewood
253-983-7703
jcaulfield@cityoflakewood.us

Shelly Helder, State Lobbyist
Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs
360-209-3338
shelder@gth-gov.com