



**October 7, 2026
5:15 p.m.**

HOW TO ATTEND

- **In-person:** Lakewood Police Station, 9401 Lakewood Drive SW.
- **Virtually:** Online or by phone. Online: <https://cityoflakewood-us.zoom.us/j/81485816431?pwd=RAaMoXZZT6CrWNnO8Ad0UndhcelylQ.1>
- Or dial (253) 215-8782 and enter participant ID: 814 8581 6431.
- **Livestream:** YouTube.com/CityofLakewoodWA

Persons requesting special accommodation or language interpreters should call 253-830-5071, as soon as possible in advance of the meeting so that an attempt to provide special accommodation can be made.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF August 5, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

GUEST SPEAKER

Heidi Wachter, City Attorney: E-Bike Regulations
Captain Jessica Fitzgerald: Flock Cameras

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE COMMENTS

LAKESWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

YOUTH COUNCIL COMMENTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Traffic Circle Public Service Announcement Update
- Truck and Tractor Days – 10/17/26
- 2027 Goals and 2026 Accomplishments - 12/14/26 Presentation to Council

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of Committee Chair and Vice-chair
- Preview of December meeting

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

ADJOURNMENT



**Lakewood Public Safety Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

MEETING PLACE/DATE:

Lakewood Police Department, August 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

Lakewood Public Safety Advisory Committee Members Present: Kristofer Alston, Julius Brown, Ray Dotson, James Hairston, Johnnie Mayfield, Mark Peila, Kamarie Wilson

Lakewood Public Safety Advisory Committee Members Excused: Sharyce Martin, Kristi Merritt,

Lakewood Public Safety Advisory Committee Members Absent: None

Youth Council Liaison: None

Council Liaison: Trestin Lauricella

West Pierce Fire and Rescue Liaison: Captain Matt Garrells

Police Representatives: Assistant Police Chief Dave Claridge

City Representatives: City Manager Doug Russell

Staff: Police Administrative Technician Chris James

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The June 3, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

GUEST SPEAKER:

There were no guest speakers.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS:

In the absence of the Council Liaison, City Manager Doug Russell, addressed questions about the speed camera project. He stated that the Council is still discussing details.

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

Captain Matt Garrells provided a summary of July stats (attached). He stated that they are aware of watching for arsonist-type behaviors during this heightened fire season.

He stated that National Night Out had a slightly lower attendance which is being attributed to the air quality. Upcoming events include Back to School Night on August 8th, SummerFest on August 15th, as well as the last two Farmers' Markets on August 25th and September 1st.

In response to questions about ride-alongs, Captain Garrell referred people to the website. <https://www.westpierce.org/classes-programs/>

POLICE COMMENTS:

Assistant Chief Dave Claridge introduced himself and provided some career background, including his years at Fife PD and Thurston Sheriff's. He noted that he is a recent graduate of the FBI Academy and has a Master's in Public Safety. He shared that his personal background includes growing up in East Tacoma and spending time with his grandparents here in Lakewood. He stated that he is very excited and proud to be part of the Lakewood Police Department.

AC Claridge stated that the department is working on the staffing roster for SummerFest. He also noted, regarding general department staffing, that there are currently 8 officer openings; 3 are starting the Police Training Officer (PTO) phase; and 1 is starting back at the academy next week.

The committee members welcomed AC Claridge.

Sergeant Fraser spoke on Marine Safety, particularly as it impacts Lake Steilacoom. As background, he explained that the Marine Safety Unit (MSU) currently has only six certified officers and that the MSU operates from mid-June – mid-September. The MSU previously received operational funds from the US Safety Grant and Boating Education funds. The US Safety Grant is no longer available, so all funding comes from Boating Education funds. This means that the reduced resources need to be deployed where they will have the maximum impact. Of the lakes, American Lake is the most used and, therefore, needs the most resources. In addition, he pointed out that it takes longer for the MSU to respond than it does for a normal patrol vehicle, so by the time the MSU can get their units to and on the water after an issue has been reported, most of the suspected perpetrators have already received forewarning and left.

Sergeant John Fraser identified some concerns related to Lake Steilacoom. These concerns include the size of watercraft, the ballast variances, and the impacts that the resulting wakes have on the docks and shoreline; larger watercraft hitting stumps in the lake when the water levels are even a little lower than normal; and that fact that Lakewood has some of the most restrictive regulations, such as the City requiring everyone on a 16' or larger boat to wear a life preserver – not just have preservers available. Many people aren't aware of these regulations, so he believes that better signage will also help make people more aware.

While the MSU does a great deal of educating the public, he will be taking these concerns to the Parks Advisory Committee as many lake-related issues fall under their purview and they may be able to make recommendations for changes that improve safety.

YOUTH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No comments were made as Youth Council members were not present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Traffic Circle Public Service Announcement

James Hairston provided information gained from researching the most common concerns and the responses used by other jurisdictions. He learned that the biggest concern is drivers not knowing who has the right of way when entering the circle and that better signage could help. It was noted that traffic circles reduce collisions by 37%, injuries by 75%, and fatalities by 90%. He believes that these responses can be crafted and used by Lakewood for quick PSAs. He

hopes that Youth Council members can help circulate PSAs via social media. A copy of the summary of concerns and responses will be sent to all the board members via email for their review, with responses being provided at the October meeting.

Review of PSAC Apparel

The committee's voting members received their badges.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next Meeting

The October meeting will include guest speaker Captain Jessica Fitzgerald regarding Flock cameras.

Truck and Tractor Day

The 2026 Truck and Tractor Day is scheduled for October 17th. PSAC has flyers available and signage defining the goals and focus of PSAC. There will also be a blow-up dinosaur on display at the PSAC booth to bring in foot traffic. Members were encouraged to sign up for a shift at the booth.

Membership

Mark Peila's appointment has expired, and he has chosen not to renew. He was thanked for his years of service.

James Hairston has applied for and has been reappointed for another three-year term. He was thanked for his continued support.

Work Plan

The committee will present its 2026 Accomplishment and 2027 Goals to the Council on December 14th. A copy of the draft document was distributed for review. Members were encouraged to make suggestions for additional 2027 goals. One immediate suggestion was to ask the Council for ways in which PSAC can provide input to help with issues that the Council is reviewing. Members were also encouraged to attend the December 14th joint Council meeting when the PSAC Chair presents the document.

Electric Bicycle Regulations

The City's Attorney provided a handout regarding e-bikes, e-scooters, and e-motorcycles. The purpose of the handout was to learn if PSAC had an interest in being involved in the development of City regulations for these. Because the City Attorney could not be present, the Chair read the handout aloud.

Members discussed the information, personal experiences with e-bike riders, and the growing need for regulations for safety related to e-bikes. They posed questions, including definitions of e-scooters, the inclusion of mono-wheeled electric vehicles, the speed limits for all these vehicles, age and size limitations for the operators; enforcement; and education.

Members are very interested in being involved with this topic and asked for a fuller presentation. Staff will coordinate a guest speaker for the October meeting.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF:

General Comments

Recent improvements to Nyanza Road were commended. However, it was noted that it has created an environment for speeders between 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM. AC Claridge said that he would alert the Traffic Unit to this concern.

Interactions with Police and Fire Departments

The Police and Fire departments were commended for their positive interactions with youth in that those interactions encourage the youth to see themselves as part of the solution.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Chris James, Staff Person/Minutes