



Staff Report

September 19, 2022 - Council Regular Meeting

Resolution Supporting a Criminal Justice Training Facility In Vancouver, Washington

Presenter: Mitch Lackey, Chief of Police

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: It is expected that when the next session of the Washington State Legislature convenes, a Bill will be introduced to create regional training sites across the State of Washington for the purpose of providing law enforcement officer and corrections officer training. One of these proposed regional training facility sites is in Vancouver, Washington.

The City of Camas is in support of this proposal as it would efficiently allow for our police officers to receive the necessary training and certification. The City desires to send it's support, through this Resolution, to those at the state level who are actively working on this proposal.

SUMMARY: The State of Washington is responsible for training and certification of all law enforcement officers and corrections officers. It operates the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, and it has a campus in Burien, Washington where this training is conducted. While there are some advantages to having a standardized training program at one location, there also are some disadvantages. The program to train and certify a new police officer takes over five (5) months. During that time the new officer candidates must be away from their home and families.

Recently a proposal was made by a member of the legislature to decentralize the law enforcement training by establishing multiple training centers around the state. This proposal was embraced and supported by the Criminal Justice Training Commission as well by Governor Inslee. It is expected that this proposal will evolve into a Bill in the next session and has a high probability of becoming law.

While this proposal is still only a concept, and many of the details have not yet been worked out, it has merit for exploring, and if adopted into law, could have substantial benefits for the City of Camas.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS: What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item? That a Resolution is adopted by the City Council.

What's the data? What does the data tell us? This proposal has not yet moved to a data collection phase. It is still in a concept mode, but the concept has merit and is worth exploring.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement? The Governor has held a press conference and has indicated his support for the proposal. He has signaled his intention to work with the Legislature on the details in the next session. By involving the media, he has opened the door for community engagement.

Who will benefit from or be burdened by this agenda item? Depending on the actual details that are put into the Bill, the City could benefit or could be burdened. No cost figures or budgets have been discussed and those items will be critical in answering this question. There is no doubt that creating 4 branch campuses for law enforcement training, hiring staff, and handling the logistics of certification will have a large cost to the state. At this point, the state has not discussed finances. On the other hand, having a local training facility would/should help Camas Police get our recruit officers into the police academy quicker, and would also allow our recruit officers to remain home with their families.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences? Monitor the Bill as it is developed and work closely with our partners, other cities, AWC and WASPC to ensure that unintended consequences are addressed.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact. No.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibility for people with disabilities? No.

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)? It must be adopted by the Legislature and funded.

How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results? N/A

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy, or other adopted resolution? N/A

BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown currently.

RECOMMENDATION: This item has also been placed on the September 19, 2022, City Council Regular Agenda for Council's consideration.