

CITY OF LYNDEN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Meeting Date:	November 20, 2023	
Name of Agenda Item:	Set the Public Hearing for Ord 23-1680 Amending Civil Penalties Code	
Section of Agenda:	New Business	
Department:	City Administration	
Council Committee Review:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Legal Review:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> No - Not Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Review Not Required	
Attachments:		
Draft Ord 23-1680 with redline exhibit of proposed changes.		
Summary Statement:		
<p>Over the last 12 months City Administration, staff, and legal counsel, Luke Phifer, have been drafting an update to the City’s civil penalties code. They are now prepared to introduce the amendment for Council’s review.</p> <p>The City’s current code is in need of this update as it includes numerous criminal misdemeanor penalties for offenses that would be more appropriately classified as civil infractions. Additionally, although the code recognizes the authority of the City to fine violators, it provides only broad guidance on what dollar amount could be used under this authority.</p> <p>The revised code carefully defines general penalties, civil infractions, misdemeanors, and gross misdemeanors. It assigns penalties to infractions which would be classified as C-1 through C-9 depending on the severity of the violation. The amended code also establishes a uniform process for citing and correcting violations, a critical tool for staff seeking to provide fair and consistent enforcement of the city’s code provisions.</p> <p>To implement a revision of this nature it is necessary to amend numerous existing penalty provisions throughout the municipal code. The bulk of the civil penalties code will be located in Chapter 1 of the Lynden Municipal Code but many other chapters would also be amended to classify infractions and identify corrective processes.</p> <p>Council and its committees are asked to review the draft ordinance with the intent to hear at the January 2, 2024, meeting.</p>		
Recommended Action:		
Motion to set the public hearing for January 2, 2024 , to consider Ord 23-1680 regarding an Amendment to the city’s Civil Penalties Code.		