



<b>CDC Meeting Date:</b>	January 10, 2024	
<b>Name of Agenda Item:</b>	Update to the Civil Penalties Code – LMC 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12, 13, 15-19. (Ord 23-1680)	
<b>Section of Agenda:</b>	Discussion	
<b>Next Steps Proposed by Staff:</b>		<b>Legal Review:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff revisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed
<input type="checkbox"/> Return to CDC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schedule for full Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Required
<b>Attachments:</b>		
Proposed Ord 23-1680		
<b>Summary Statement:</b>		
<p>Over the last 12 months City Administration, staff, and legal counsel have been drafting an update to the City’s civil penalties code. They are now prepared to introduce the amendment for Council 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 held a public hearing on this topic on January 2, 2024, and will consider making a final decision on the update at the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p>		
<b>Recommended Action:</b>		
Discuss proposed changes to the City’s sign code. Pose questions and provide feedback prior to final edits and public hearing on the topic.		