

CITY OF LYNDEN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Meeting Date:	June 2, 2025	
Name of Agenda Item:	Ord 25-1708 Amending LMC 2, 17 and 19 regarding the adoption of Prescriptive Design Standards	
Section of Agenda:	Public Hearing	
Department:	Community Development	
Council Committee Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		Legal Review <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Reviewed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No - Not Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Review Not Required
Attachments		
Review Guide, Draft of Ord 25-1708		
Fiscal Impact		
Amount: \$ 0 Source/Fund:	Included in the 2025 Budget? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Comments:		
Summary Statement		
<p>State Legislation (ESHB 1293) has required that cities revise design review processes to eliminate standards which could be subjectively applied. The primary goal in this requirement is to reduce the review and approval time for proposed projects. The City of Lynden must comply with the State's directives by the close of 2025.</p> <p>Historically the City of Lynden has maintained a Design Review Board (DRB) for project review. This volunteer group has handled the aesthetic aspects of sign applications, commercial and multi-family projects. Each of these projects must be submitted 45 days prior to a Board meeting to allow for review time. Requests to revise from the DRB can extend the review time beyond that 45-day period. Prescriptive code standards mean that the DRB role can be dissolved. It also provides consistency in design, certainty for designers, and is expected to expedite the review process.</p> <p>The proposed design standards were sourced from the city's design guidelines and existing sections of code that are written to apply to 'big box' stores. The goal of the standards is to facilitate safe and efficient site design while ensuring that parking and landscape areas are meeting code, and quality architecture is required. Several 'housekeeping' items were also included in this amendment.</p> <p>The Planning Commission took public comment and reviewed the amendment at their February 27th and March 13th meetings. The Department of Commerce subsequently completed their 60 day comment period without comment. The Design Review Board was also invited to provide feedback on this amendment.</p>		
Recommended Action		
Motion to approve Ordinance 25-1708 amending LMC 2, 17 and 19 regarding prescriptive design standards and implementing code clarifications and housekeeping items throughout and to authorize the Mayor's signature on the Ordinance.		