

CITY OF LYNDEN



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	December 5, 2023
Name of Agenda Item:	Code Amendment re Civil Penalties
Section of Agenda:	Discussion
Department:	Community Development Department
Attachments:	
Proposed Ordinance and Amendment	
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:	
Review and provide feedback in preparation for the January 2 nd hearing.	