



AB 6419: Recap of 2024 Legislative Session and Impact to Work Plan

March 1, 2024





Overview

- Overview of the 2024 Legislative Session
- Recap legislative action related to the City's 2024 Legislative Priorities
- Discussion on the impacts to the City's Work Plan

2024 Session

- 60-day session began January 8 and will end on March 8
- Housing and land use again a focus this session
- Police pursuits initiative process



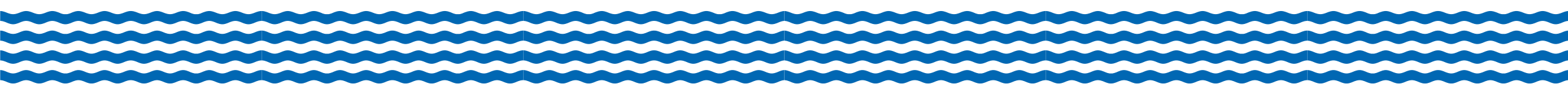
City Engagement

- City staff, lobbyists, and City Council leadership dedicated a significant amount of time to tracking bills, connecting with representatives and elected officials in neighboring communities, and advocating for legislation that aligns with Mercer Island's priorities.



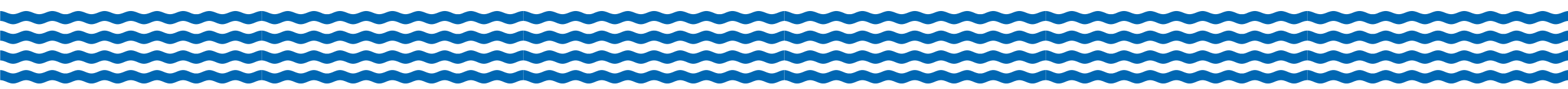
City Legislative Priorities

- Increase Resources for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention
- Support for Affordable Housing
- Support Public Safety Measures on Auto Theft and Property Crime
- Capital and Grant Support for Essential Public Services
- Preserving and Protecting the Environment
- Opposition to Expansion of Tort Law Liability
- Revising the Property Tax Cap



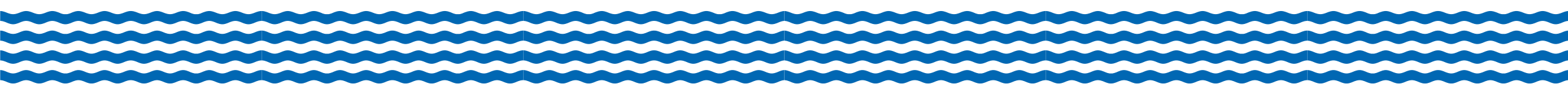
City Engagement

- Regular calls between City Staff, Lobbyists, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Representative Senn and Thai, and Senator Wellman.
- Weekly meetings since December with Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Staff, and Lobbyists.
- At times daily work between Mayor Nice, City Staff, and Lobbyists analyzing bills, crafting testimony, writing amendment text, and developing legislative strategy



City Engagement

- Public testimony given to House Appropriation, Housing, and Capital Budget Committees, and the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs; Early Learning & K-12 Education; and Ways & Means Committees.
- Weekly meetings with AWC lobbyists, including providing individual technical and legal analysis and suggested amendments on housing bills to AWC.
- Significant hours of advocacy with other mayors, council members, and legislative representatives outside of the City's district.



Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention

- The City testified in support of HB 1956 / SB 5923, which aims to update educational content in schools focusing on opioid and fentanyl prevention for seventh and ninth graders.
- Mayor Nice's testimony in support of the bill was quoted in Governor Inslee's weekly legislative email, recognizing Mercer Island's support of this important work.
- HB 1956 has been approved by both House and Senate. Still requires a concurrence vote due to amendments added in the Senate.

Marine Patrol Funding

- Capitol Budget request for \$1,200,000 to support the partial replacement of the City's Marine Patrol fleet.
- Senator Wellman's office recommended amending our request to \$500,000. We did so and she submitted it through the State General Fund Operating Budget.
- The request was not successful this session.
- The City's legislative team will continue to pursue this funding in the future.
- Marine Patrol vessel replacement will remain a part of the regular fleet replacement cycle while City staff continues to seek alternative funding options where possible.

Capital & Grant Support

- The City requested state funding for public safety programs and Climate Action Plan implementation, including:
 - Funding for Seafair Water Safety support
 - An electric vehicle infrastructure plan
 - A compact electric sweeper
- These requests are unlikely to be successful this session.

Police Pursuits

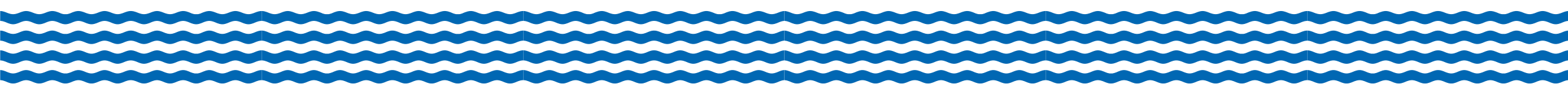
- The 2024 session did not include a bill to expand pursuits to include auto theft and some property crimes.
- Instead, **Initiative 2113** was introduced, which would potentially send this issue to the statewide November 2024 ballot. This initiative reinstates “reasonable suspicion” standard and removes narrowly defined crimes eligible for pursuit.
- Officers would still be bound by their individual department's policies with a primary focus on the safety of the public.
- Initiative 2113 received a public hearing on February 28th, and the legislature is considering voting and adopting the initiative rather than have it go to the ballot.
- The Mayor submitted written testimony in support of the legislature adopting the initiative.

Housing & Land Use

- Housing and land use were significant themes again this year's legislative session.
- The City tracked and testified on bills related to transit-oriented development, co-living housing, parking regulation bills, lot-splitting, neighborhood businesses, and State housing regulation and growth management act compliance.
- While they did not pass this year, staff anticipate bills related to lot-splitting, transit-oriented development, and State housing regulation and growth management act compliance that did not pass this year to return at next year's legislative session.

Work Plan Impacts

- Final impacts of the bills passed this session will continue to be discussed and shared with City Council as direction and implementation requirements become clearer.
- Staff will provide a final recap of the 2024 Session and its impacts to the City's work plan after it ends.



Questions & Discussion

