

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 27, 2020
9:30 A.M. – 10:16 A.M.
REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT (CHAIR), MAYOR RYDER

COUNCIL ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER GREENSTEIN

STAFF PRESENT: SCOTT SPENCE, ROBERT ALMADA, PERI EDMONDS, ELISSA FONTAINE

ACTION: APPROVE THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
AGENDA.

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED BY MAYOR RYDER AND DEPUTY
MAYOR PRATT

PUBLIC RECORDS ACTIVITY REPORT

STAFF: PERI EDMONDS, CITY CLERK
ELISSA FONTAINE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Peri Edmonds, City Clerk, presented an overview of the 2019 JLARC report, relating to public records received and responded to from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

In 2017, the state legislature adopted ESHB 1594, which requires local government agencies with staff and legal costs associated with fulfilling public records requests totaling \$100,000 during the prior fiscal year report to the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) on the required 15 different public records metrics. The City of Lacey reports data on public records requests received by the City, Police Department and Joint Animal Services.

Report highlights include a total of 2,699 agency public records requests received during 2019. Of those requests, 220 contained redactions; 22 were abandoned by requesters; and 140 required additional clarification. The total estimated cost to the agency in fulfilling public records requests, including staff and legal compensation, is just above \$380,000, making an average estimated cost of \$140 per request. The total tracked expense recovery was \$48. Total litigation costs incurred for 2019 was just under \$40,000, in relation to a lawsuit filed against Joint Animal Services.

City staff will provide an update to the Committee in 2021, following submission of the 2020 JLARC report.

I-940 INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (IIT) OVERVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

STAFF: ROBERT ALMADA, CHIEF OF POLICE

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Robert Almada, Chief of Police, presented on the Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act (LETSCSA) and Independent Investigative Team (IIT) requirements and selection process.

The key goals of LETSCSA are to:

- Mandate de-escalation and mental health training for all Washington State law enforcement officers.
- Require and render first aid training at scenes at the earliest safe opportunity.
- Remove the requirement to prove “malice” for criminal assault or homicide charges against officers and substitute a “good faith” standard.
- Require a completely independent investigation of officer involved uses of deadly force.

An Independent Investigations Team (IIT) consists of certified peace officer investigators (Detectives) and civilian crime scene specialists (Evidence), and at least two non-law enforcement, community representatives from member agencies.

The IIT operates completely independent of the involved agency. The four primary focuses governing independent investigations are:

- Independence
- Transparency
- Communication
- Credibility

The Lacey Police Department is accepting applications throughout the month of October 2020 from Lacey residents and members of the Lacey business community who want to serve on the IIT as community representatives.