



City Council Meeting Minutes

Vancouver City Hall | Council Chambers | 415 W. 6th St.
PO Box 1995 | Vancouver, WA 98668-1995
cityofvancouver.us

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor • Bart Hansen • Ty Stober • Erik Paulsen • Sarah J. Fox • Diana H. Perez • Kim D. Harless

October 21, 2024

Workshops: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall - Council Chambers - 415 W 6th Street, Vancouver WA

Workshops were conducted in person in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting in person, via the live broadcast on www.cvtv.org and CVTV cable channels 23 or HD 323, or on the City's Facebook page, or www.facebook.com/VancouverUS.

View the CVTV video recording, including presentations and discussion, for workshops at:

https://www.cvtv.org/vid_link/36843?startStreamAt=0&stopStreamAt=6164

State Legislative Draft Legislative Agenda

(Approximately 1 hour)

Aaron Lande, Program and Policy Development Manager,
aaron.lande@cityofvancouver.us

Staff led Council through a discussion of the State Legislative Draft Legislative Agenda.

Councilmember Perez was absent from the workshop.

Councilmembers Harless, Fox and Hansen were late to the workshop.

Rental Habitability and Inspection Program Proposal

(Approximately 1 hour, to immediately follow the previous workshop)

Samantha Whitley, Housing Programs Manager,
samantha.whitley@cityofvancouver.us

Staff led Council through a discussion of the Rental Habitability and Inspection Program Proposal.

Councilmember Perez was absent from the workshop.

Council Dinner / Administrative Updates (6:00-6:30 p.m.)

Regular Council Meeting

6:30 PM

Vancouver City Hall - Council Chambers - 415 W 6th Street, Vancouver WA

This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting with in person and remote viewing and participation over video conference utilizing a GoToMeeting platform. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting in person, via the live broadcast on www.cvtv.org and CVTV cable channels 23 or HD 323, or on the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/VancouverUS. Public access and testimony on Consent Agenda items and under the Community Forum were also facilitated in person and via the GoToMeeting conference call.

Vancouver City Council meeting minutes are a record of the action taken by Council. To view the CVTV video recording, including presentations, testimony and discussion, for this meeting please visit:

[https://www.cvtv.org/vid link/36845?startStreamAt=0&stopStreamAt=5607](https://www.cvtv.org/vid_link/36845?startStreamAt=0&stopStreamAt=5607)

Electronic audio recording of City Council meetings are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order and Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Vancouver City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor McEnerny-Ogle. This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting, including both in person and remotely over video conference.

Present: Councilmember Harless, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Paulsen, Councilmember Stober, Councilmember Hansen, and Mayor McEnerny-Ogle

Absent: Councilmember Perez

Motion by Councilmember Stober, seconded by Councilmember Harless, and Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstaining: 0, to excuse Councilmember Perez. Absent from vote: Councilmember Perez.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes - August 26, 2024

Motion by Councilmember Paulsen, seconded by Councilmember Hansen, and Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstaining: 0, to approve the August 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Absent from vote: Councilmember Perez.

Minutes - September 9, 2024

Motion by Councilmember Stober, seconded by Councilmember Hansen, and Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstaining: 0, to approve the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Absent from vote: Councilmember Perez.

Proclamations

Pink Lemonade Project

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read and presented a proclamation to Don Stose, Former Board Member for the Pink Lemonade Project, proclaiming October 2024 as Beast Cancer Awareness Month.

Red Ribbon Week

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read and presented a proclamation to Caitlin Ramirez, Coalition Coordinator of West Van for Youth, in attendance with Angela Riddle, Laura Darland, Danielle Matson, Alaina Green and Teens for Tomorrow, proclaiming October 23-October 31, 2024, as Red Ribbon Week.

Community Communication

This is the place on the agenda where the public is invited to speak to Council regarding any matter on the Agenda not already scheduled for Public Hearing. (Separate instructions are provided for offering testimony on Public Hearing when applicable.) This includes the option to testify about Workshops. Members of the public addressing Council are requested to give their name and city of residence for the audio record. Speakers are to limit their testimony to a total of three minutes for all items combined.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened Community Communication and received testimony from the following community members regarding any matter on the agenda not scheduled for a Public Hearing:

- *Kimberlee Goheen Elbon, La Center, WA*
- *Carmen DeLeon, Vancouver*
- *Mary Cray, Vancouver*
- *Eugene Couture, Vancouver*
- *Matthew Trevino, Vancouver*

There being no further testimony, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle closed Community Communication.

Consent Agenda

The following items will be passed by a single motion to approve all listed actions and resolutions. There will be no discussion on these items unless requested by Council. If discussion is requested, the item will be moved from the Consent Agenda and considered separately – after the motion has been made and passed to approve the remaining items.

Motion by Councilmember Paulsen, seconded by Councilmember Fox, and Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstaining: 0, to approve Items 1-5 on the Consent Agenda. Absent from vote: Councilmember Perez.

1. Construction Acceptance - Fourth Plain East Orchards Stormwater Retrofit for ITB 23-03

Staff Report: 212-24

Request: On October 21, 2024, accept the East Orchards Fourth Plain Stormwater Retrofit as constructed by Halme Excavating Inc, of Battle Ground, WA, and authorize release of retainage in the amount of \$102,077.41, subject to receipt of all documentation required by law.

Aron Rice, Senior Civil Engineer, aron.rice@cityofvancouver.us

Motion approved the request.

2. Construction Acceptance - Fire Station 11, per ITB 21-12

Staff Report: 213-24

Request: On October 21, 2024, accept the facilities as constructed by Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company, and authorize release of the contractor's retainage, subject to receipt of all documentation required by law.

Jean Singer, Capital Projects Manager, jean.singer@cityofvancouver.us

Motion approved the request.

3. Bid Award - The Main Street Promise Project, 5th Street to 15th Street (100358), per Bid #ITB 24-46

Staff Report: 214-24

Request: On October 21, 2024, award a construction contract for the Main Street Promise Project – 5th Street to 15th Street to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Nutter Corporation, at their bid price of \$19,104,227.30, which includes Washington State sales tax, and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the same.

Ryan Lopossa, Streets and Transportation Manager, ryan.lopossa@cityofvancouver.us

Motion approved the request.

4. Contract Amendment - Waterfront Maintenance Amendment for Pacific Landscape Contract Extension

Staff Report: 215-24

Request: Approve an amendment to #C-101400 with Pacific Landscaping Services as the maintenance firm for Vancouver's Waterfront Park expected at \$343,332 annually plus add on services of \$15,000 per year to better align with Pacific Landscape Services original bid proposal. Authorization is requested to extend the contract to two years not to exceed the amount of \$836,108.00 over the course of 2 years.

David Perlick, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services,
david.perlick@cityofvancouver.us

Motion approved the request.

5. Approval of Claim Vouchers

Request: Approve claim vouchers for October 21, 2024.

Motion approved claim vouchers in the amount of \$13,845,879.67.

Communications

A. From the Council

B. From the Mayor

C. From the City Manager

Farmer's Market Update

Jordan Boldt, Executive Director for the Vancouver Farmers Market, discussed the Farmer's Market Update.

Comprehensive Plan Land Use Possibilities Update

Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Community Development Director, discussed the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Possibilities Update.

Homeless Emergency Response Update #11

Jamie Spinelli, Homeless Resource Manager, discussed the Homeless Emergency Response Update #11.

Adjournment

8:03 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Anne McEnerny-Ogle

6C89D9069EC5424...

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Natasha Ramras

493E940414AE4BD...

Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

The written comments below are those of the submitter alone and are not representative of the views of CVTV or the City of Vancouver, its elected or appointed officials, or its employees.

From: [Delapena, Amanda](#)
Cc: [Pluckhahn, Lon](#); [Ramras, Natasha](#); [Olsen, Shannon](#); [Dollar, Sarah](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia Springs funding
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 1:58:34 PM

Good afternoon Council,

The message below was sent to the Council inbox regarding this afternoon's budget workshop. It was received past the deadline to be included in the comments Sarah provided you earlier this afternoon.

Amanda Delapena

Executive Assistant to the Mayor and City Manager

From: Stephanie Cram [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 1:14 PM
To: City Council <council@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: Columbia Springs funding

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please excuse the delay in receiving this email. Technical problems had to be resolved.

Dear Vancouver City Council Members,

I am writing you to implore this Council to continue their funding of Columbia Springs. I will highlight just a couple of benefits to the children of Vancouver of your generous funding. One, your funds allow for scholarships for children to attend an outdoor school Summer Camp to which they otherwise will not have access. Equalizing the economic impact for families who would otherwise be shut off from access to this wonderful outdoor camp experience is a primary goal and role for this Council. If it were not an aim for this Council then you would only be serving the financially secure or elite. I believe the City of Vancouver looks to meet the needs of all of its diverse community members.

Two, Columbia Springs provides field trips to Vancouver children who might otherwise not be able to explore learning about the outdoors and environment. Gaining knowledge about nature and the environment is no longer a luxury in today's world; it is of vital necessity. Children today are needing to learn and acquire stewardship of their natural environment, which is a vital part of the field trips to Columbia Springs.

I encourage this Council to make a visit to Columbia Springs for a field trip yourselves, to learn first hand what is gained from the field trip program, thereby making a well informed decision about the City's future support of Columbia Springs.

Thank you for hearing me.

Stephanie Cram

From: [Derya Ruggles](#)
To: [Dollar, Sarah](#)
Subject: Re: Form Submission: Council Meeting Testimony Registration
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 7:33:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sarah! I was there the entire time, waiting since 6:00pm, pressing *6 when asked! I could hear you, and I thought you could unmute me if I was unable to. What happened?!

I am so disappointed not to have the opportunity to end the testimony instead of what we all had to hear. Please give my regards to all and put my testimony in for the record:

Hello, Honorable Mayor Pro Tem, City Council members, & staff,

I'm Derya Rugles-Christensen, 30 year-Vancouver resident, and your TMC Commissioner, calling in because I am visiting California. I want to chime in and encourage support for the continued funding for our local grass roots organization, the Watershed Alliance, which is highly effective in creating and consistently delivering the very things this fine body has defined for a vital welcoming Vancouver for all of us.

I realize you have difficult financial decisions to make, hopefully not so dire as Sophie's-Choice decisions leading to irrevocable loss.

From the ground up, for a responsible, climate-conscious future, the Watershed Alliance has for years and years quietly accomplished bedrock work that reverberates throughout our city and county.

Sometimes we cannot measure how profound and pervasively positive contributions are until we lose them. Please don't let this happen.

Maintaining a healthy, vibrant Vancouver is a huge job and everyone's business. How can we stretch a beleaguered budget and engage our residents to care and contribute as stakeholders for the longrun?

The Watershed Alliance is successful at this by any measure. Just this year, the Watershed Alliance had more than 1,600 volunteers pick up 1,500 pounds of litter

and plant 20 thousand native plants. Their programs and events include Backyard bird certification that promote our vital pollinators, education on land stewardship, neighborhood grants, free documentary film showings, watershed restoration projects, and so much more. In fact, they are a bargain.

Please reconsider cutting the Watershed Alliance contract from the budget.

The Watershed Alliance is a local treasure to be honored and is deserving of our continued financial support.

Thank you.

On Oct 14, 2024, at 12:59 PM, Dollar, Sarah
<Sarah.Dollar@cityofvancouver.us> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for registering to testify under Consent regarding the workshop at the Vancouver City Council meeting this evening. Tonight's Council meeting will be conducted remotely over GoToMeeting. Instructions for connecting to the virtual meeting environment are below. ***Please note – a password will now be required to access the virtual meeting environment on a computer or mobile device.***

If you no longer wish to provide testimony during tonight's meeting, please respond to this email a.s.a.p. to be removed from the list.

Please try to connect to the meeting between 6:00 p.m. and the time listed below, and no later than 6:30 p.m. Participants who connect after the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. may not be able to speak during this meeting.

1. **Connecting with a computer, tablet or smartphone – please connect by 6:20 p.m.**
 - a. Click on this link to connect: <https://meet.goto.com/414413533>
 - b. Enter the password: 14-10_LFM
 - c. Follow the prompts to enter your name for identification purposes. Please use the same name you registered under.
 - d. You will have the option to use audio directly through your device, or to call in from a phone (see phone number and access code below).
 - e. You will automatically be muted when you enter the meeting. Please remain muted **with your webcam (if available) off** until your name is called by the Mayor at the time of testimony.

- f. **The Mayor will call your name when it is your turn to testify. Please unmute yourself at that point.** You may also turn on your webcam at this point, if desired.
- g. Please keep your comments to 3 minutes or less.
- h. You will be muted once your comments have concluded.
- i. **Please turn your webcam back off** once you have finished your testimony.

TIP: If you have the live television or Facebook coverage on in the background, please mute the device it is playing on.

2. **Connecting by telephone only – please call in by 6:15 p.m.**

- a. Call: [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073)
- b. Enter access code [414-413-533#](tel:414413533) when prompted
- c. You will be given the option to enter an audio PIN. You do not need a PIN for this meeting. Press # when prompted.
- d. You will hear a chime when you have entered the meeting. Please state your name when you enter the meeting so a staff member can identify you.
- e. Once you have been identified, you will be placed on mute until your name is called by the Mayor at the time of testimony.
- f. The Mayor will call your name when it is your turn to testify, and staff will unmute your line at that point.
- g. Please keep your comments to 3 minutes or less.
- h. You will be muted once your comments have concluded.

TIP: Please be sure your phone is not on speaker to avoid extraneous noise on the call. If you have the live television or Facebook coverage on in the background, please mute the device it is playing on.

Sarah Dollar | Executive Assistant to the City Council
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
City Manager's Office (CMO)
Primary (Cell): 360-624-2949 | **Desk:** 360-487-8641
www.cityofvancouver.us

From: City of Vancouver, WA <noreply@cityofvancouver.us>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 11:37 AM

To: Dollar, Sarah <Sarah.Dollar@cityofvancouver.us>

Subject: Form Submission: Council Meeting Testimony Registration

Council Meeting Testimony Registration

Name

Derya Ruggles

Address

[REDACTED]
Vancouver, WA 98661
United States
[Map It](#)

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone

9715061730

Topic I wish to speak about

Please do not cut funding for
Watershed Alliance.

I plan to attend the Council meeting

Remotely

From: [Crystal L. Wulff](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Subject: Advocating for Columbia Springs' \$50,000 Funding: A Crucial Partner for Evergreen Public Schools in Education and Sustainability
Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 4:26:16 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Vancouver Council Members,

I am writing to you as the district science specialist for Evergreen Public Schools to advocate for maintaining the \$50,000 in funding for Columbia Springs. Columbia Springs has been an invaluable partner in providing hands-on environmental education for our students and fostering a sense of community stewardship, all while supporting the City's broader sustainability goals.

Each year, Columbia Springs engages thousands of students from our district in unique, real-world learning experiences. Their programs offer our students essential knowledge about environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and the importance of caring for natural resources. As a former Environmental Science teacher, I had several of my own students work as summer interns and then choose career pathways related to their experience at Columbia Springs. As the district science specialist, I get to hear about all of the wonderful experiences our 5th grade students have on their annual field trips to Columbia Springs, and I also get to see children rearing salmon eggs in their classroom and participating in their release into our local streams. These programs align with the City's objectives and are instrumental in shaping the next generation of environmentally responsible citizens.

The cost of providing such comprehensive programs—if managed by the City or schools alone—would be significantly higher than what Columbia Springs achieves through its efficient, volunteer-driven model. In this way, Columbia Springs not only benefits thousands of students each year but also supports the City by reducing future environmental management costs through proactive education.

The potential loss of \$50,000 in funding would directly impact Columbia Springs' ability to continue providing [these services](#). This cut would result in fewer opportunities for students to engage with their local environment and learn the critical skills needed to support the City's long-term sustainability efforts.

We urge the City of Vancouver to recognize the far-reaching benefits that Columbia Springs provides—not only to our students but to the broader community—and to continue supporting this vital organization by maintaining its funding. Your investment in Columbia Springs is an investment in the education and well-being of

our students and the sustainability of Vancouver's future.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Crystal Wulff (she/her)

Science/STEM TOSA- [Curriculum and Instruction](#)

Evergreen School District, Vancouver WA

Need to schedule a meeting? [Use my Booking Link!](#)

The webpages listed below can help provide information about science and health at EPS.

- [EPS Curriculum and Instruction webpage](#)- Science and sexual health curriculum info for families/community
- [EPS Science webpage \(internal\)](#)
- [EPS CSHE webpage \(internal\)](#)

From: [Jim Byrne](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Written comments for City Council meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 10:27:36 AM

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Mayor and Councilors,

I am writing to show my support for retaining funding for the Watershed Alliance. It is a top environmental organization that does much to establish trees and clean up stream corridors. They have proven success. Please continue to fund them.

Jim Byrne (Retired WDFW fish biologist)

From: [Danielle Jokela](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please do not cut funding to the Watershed Alliance
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 3:20:53 PM

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Hi there. The Watershed Alliance has been such a great community resource for my family, and for our broader community. They engage with so many people, in my case, my kids have volunteered with them to plant trees and clean up the river and Vancouver lake. Not only are my kids learning about how to be good stewards of our forests, land, and water, they are learning critical social skills like problem solving, taking initiative, collaborating with groups including people they have just met, how to be a good leader, and how to support others who are leading. Please help keep this project alive and thriving by continuing to support through funding.

Thank you.

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From: [Jan V](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: rezoning for housing density
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 4:30:54 PM

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Hi - Thought I'd make this meeting, but I need to tend the home fires tonight.

However - I totally support rezoning for better land use and more housing.

Thank you!
Jan Verrinder
[REDACTED]

From: [Andrea Cruz](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Senior Hiking Program
Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024 2:43:06 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I want to express extreme disappointment regarding proposed cancellation of the senior hiking program. It is quite clear that exercise and fresh air is valuable to our health and we'll being. The hiking program does not only provide that but facilitate socialization vital to most who live alone. While you still provide exercise classes, the classes are over crowded so much so that senior participants may be turned away. It is my hope that funds be located elsewhere instead of the active senior program.

From: [Grace Teigen](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Watershed Alliance Testimony
Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024 3:20:59 PM

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Budget cuts that threaten the viability of Watershed Alliance are contrary to the City's stated CAF and shortsighted for those concerned about balancing the City budget. For a very small amount of money, this organization brings so much "value added" to their projects, a kind of value that paid city employees are not in a position to duplicate.

To illustrate: many years ago in our Neighborhood Assn's first acquaintance with the organization, the \$2000 grant they provided not only enabled us to install drought tolerant landscaping at our entrance, landscaping that continues to provide value years later, but it also introduced many of us to the concept of using "native plants", a body of knowledge we have carried forward into many other projects.

When we wanted to start a Community Garden in the Maplewood neighborhood that had a high population of food challenged citizens, the Watershed not only enabled the garden to get started with a small grant, their knowledge of how to create such a garden as well as suggestions for other fund-raising sources and methods is a body of information that contributes to the garden's continued success four years later and provides a firm foundation that will carry it forward for many years to come.

In addition, we've worked with them twice on restoring the section of Burnt Bridge Creek that borders the Unitarian Universalist Church. Their communication, follow-through and remarkable group of bi-lingual, inclusive volunteers was impressive.

Most recently, a grant shared by two adjacent neighborhoods on the south side of 18th Street, the site of a proposed road widening, has made it possible for the creation of a protective hedgerow of native plants that is a significant step in a proactive approach to mitigating the environmental damage that a widened road will inevitably bring.

Personally, thanks to the Backyard Habitat Program, we are happy to say that our ½ acre is now Gold Certified and has been the site of two Clark County Natural Garden Tours and two Backyard Habitat tours, touching more than 600 people. That kind of information spreading is not something other programs can bring.

Watershed Alliance has become a focus of environmental action and volunteerism for many hundreds of us. Their effects are exponential. In my 16-year view of the organization, the creation of the Alliance has been one of the wisest and most beneficial things the city has done for our local environment and again, in my view, removing them from the city budget now would be among the most wasteful and destructive.

Please consider other options and in those considerations recall:

1. The cost for the Alliance is not exponentially increased by taxes, employees benefits [etc.as](#) it is for hiring employees.
2. As an organization rich in volunteers, the cost brings with it many, many, hours of free labor on important projects.
3. The institutional knowledge they have gathered and spread cannot be tracked or accurately accounted for but my own behavior and decisions over the last 16 years is living proof that their impact is well in excess of the relatively small amount

of funding and other support the city provides. Though it's a small amount in the City's budget, it is pivotal to theirs. Please reconsider and find another, more effective way to save.

Thank You.

Grace Teigen

On behalf of First Place Neighborhood Assn.

Countryside Woods Neighborhood Assn.

Maplewood Neighborhood Assn.

Maplewood Moseley Community Garden

UUCV and Burnt Bridge Creek Restoration

Backyard Habitat Certification Program

From: [Gregg Herrington](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Sunrise O'Mahoney](#); [Charlene Montieth](#); [ANITA WAKIMOTO](#); [Anna Wilde](#); [Gregg Herrington](#)
Subject: 2025 budget suggestion
Date: Friday, October 18, 2024 11:36:38 AM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Vancouver Mayor and Councilors:

Thank you for your service, including what I assume is a plenty of angst in considering the 2025 budget, given the city's financial projections and the hard choices facing you.

I am not a city resident, but please read on. I am on the Board of Directors of the Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington, which is targeted for non-renewal of its annual contract with the city. That's a hit that could doom the Alliance. I will not bore or aggravate you by reiterating what you already have heard about the services provided by the skeleton staff and our army of volunteers. I will not question what you have been told is the plan to maintain these services at some level in the absence the Watershed Alliance and its volunteers.

But consider those volunteers, who several times a year answer our call for people to actually do the work. Does the city really want to lose the enthusiasm for public service and the pride they have in Vancouver and its natural environment, ground-and surface-water health and attractive beaches and waterfronts?

Here are the numbers for 2024 so far:

— 871 different volunteers across the age spectrum have participated in one or more Alliance-organized events.

— Those 871 volunteers have participated 1,068 times.

As cell phones, cable TV and social media are occupying so much of our time and attention — including that of children the age of many of our volunteers — should not their willingness and enthusiasm for the Alliance's work be a factor in the decision facing you?

Thank you,
Gregg Herrington
Salmon Creek
10-18-24

From: [Anitra Gorham](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Letter in support of continuing financial support to Columbia Springs for 2025 programing
Date: Sunday, October 20, 2024 8:08:02 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

Please continue to provide financial support to Columbia Springs in 2025 to enable them to continue their excellent environmental education programing that has reached so many children and residents of the city of Vancouver. This nature center offers an unparalleled opportunity for the children of Vancouver to understand the ecosystems and life cycles of the Pacific Northwest region.

Thank you,

Anitra Gorham

I'm here today to share some of Urban Forestry's accomplishments and express my concern that a limited term full time position that would directly support sustainability and equity in Vancouver was not recommended in the proposed budget.

Vancouver Urban Forestry was awarded some Inflation Reduction Act funds to begin a paid youth internship program to promote environmental justice and prepare youth for the growing green industry which will comprise an estimated 15% of jobs in the United States by 2030. As an AmeriCorps and temporary staff member, I started our Environmental Youth Corps program, and recruited, trained, and managed youth from 7 different high schools in Vancouver. The grant money that funds this work only lasts 2 more years, the duration of this budget cycle.

As a part of this grant, the Federal Government identified Justice40 neighborhoods ~~to be~~ as historically underfunded and over-polluted, with populations experiencing higher levels of poverty and worse health outcomes compared to surrounding neighborhoods. For instance, the people living along the Fourth Plain corridor have the highest rates of asthma in Vancouver, and not coincidentally some of the lowest rates of tree canopy coverage. As of 2021, South Cliff had a canopy coverage of 47% while justice 40 neighborhood Bagley Downs had a tree canopy coverage of 19%.

In less than 2 months this summer, EYC stewarded over 16 sites in Justice40 neighborhoods in our city. They worked hard to remove 515 gallons of noxious weeds, helped establish 411 young trees, properly pruned 96 trees, inventoried over 1,000 trees, and found over 300 spots to plant new trees in justice40 neighborhoods. Additionally, youth took field trips to tree nurseries, and got lessons from Vancouver Bee Project, the Water Resources Center, and a career panel from Fourth Plain Forward and Urban Forestry staff. Finally, these youth bravely presented all their accomplishments to the Urban Forestry commission and their family members.

Several of these students are now interested in green jobs, and they frequently asked me how they could keep working for urban forestry because they "would rather do fun, meaningful work than a regular high school job." After speaking with our grant managers, we have gotten approval to expand the Environmental Youth Corps to be year-round. But now, the position that would have overseen this program and work to improve environmental justice in Vancouver will likely not exist, leaving a massive burden on Urban Forestry staff who already have demanding full time jobs.

I am an elder member of generation Z and I can say confidently that my generation is here and we want to work. We do not have to look far to see climate disasters that have devastated thriving cities. I understand budgeting requires complex decisions, but time is running out and we need to invest in protecting our youth, our environment, our jobs, and the health of our community members. It does not need to be me, but someone needs to do this work. Thank you for all you do, and for your time and consideration today.

Amy Russell

To: Vancouver City Council; City of Vancouver Mayor
Subject: 2025 CJC Budget Request

Good afternoon. For the record, I would like to clarify a 2025 budget request of the City of Vancouver for the Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center (CJC). The package number is GG00674 – Children's Justice Center Victim Advocate Positions (p. 577) and it was recommended that it NOT be funded. This is to inform you that the decision package did not indicate that CJC reasonably relied on the Interlocal Agreement established between the City and the County to fully fund positions as a match to County funds. A summary is as follows:

- The City of Vancouver and Clark County entered into an Interlocal Agreement in 1990 to establish CJC to be supported by shared funding and personnel resources
- Funding amounts for the City and the County are based upon the actual cost of the Center, less any grants and donations secured by CJC in the course of the budget year
- Of the remaining amount, the cost share agreement for the City and the County is allocated from a three-year average of cases investigated by the City and the County
- The three-year cost-share average for 2024 is 54% City of Vancouver and 46% Clark County
- CJC experienced a 40% increase in cases worked following the Covid pandemic
- Due to increased caseloads, Clark County dedicated funds to pay for an additional forensic interviewer and an additional victim advocate for one year, as well as a 0.75 FTE victim advocate funded by the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- At that time, CJC approached the City to equitably "match" this funding from the County when the funds expired; a City official indicated that they would "pay their fair share" (see email in attachment)
- CJC has requested funding from the City for 2025 to cover the expenses for the County-funded forensic interviewer and victim advocate project positions, as well as an equitable share of the 0.75 FTE victim advocate historically funded by the PAO
- The funding request was submitted through the City budget process, but was labeled as "the City's share to support grant funded FTEs after the grants have expired" as opposed to the City's share of the established cost-share agreement
- The loss of funding from the City leaves 2.75 FTE victim advocates carrying caseloads of over 200 each, where the industry standard is 20-50
- The loss of funding also reduces CJC forensic interviewers to 1.0 FTE, responsible for conducting nearly 400 interviews a year and testifying in approximately 74 defense interviews, hearings and trials a year

Amy Russell, MEd, JD, NCC
 Executive Director
 she/her pronouns ([What's this?](#))



Amy.Russell@clark.wa.gov
www.clark.wa.gov/cjc



CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Children's Justice Center

CJC-02-24FL

DATE: 11 August 2024

REQUESTED ACTION:

Seeking continuation of 1.0 FTE CJC Program Victim Advocate (P003219 Victim Advocate) and 1.0 FTE CJC Project Forensic Interviewer (P003160 Program Coordinator I) positions for the remainder of 2024 and ending December 31, 2025. Immediate action is requested; funding to be secured from the City of Vancouver as match pursuant to CJC's Cost Share Agreement.

 X Consent Hearing County Manager

BACKGROUND

Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center (CJC) is seeking immediate approval to extend employment for its 1.0 FTE Project Victim Advocate (P003219) and 1.0 FTE Project Forensic Interviewer (P003160 Program Coordinator I) through December 31, 2025, positions previously approved by the Clark County Council through ARPA funding.

CJC was established in 1990 through a countywide Interlocal Agreement to provide a safe, supportive place for child victims of abuse and their nonoffending family members to receive services. CJC was recognized as a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) in 2000, and is supported through a public-private collaboration to coordinate child abuse investigations and prosecution, and to support services for child victims and witnesses of violent crimes. One of the NCA accreditation standards is to ensure children and families have a victim advocate to provide information, support and advocacy services to child victims and witnesses of felony-level crimes. Another standard requires that suspected victims of child abuse and witnesses of violent crimes receive a forensic interview conducted by a specially trained professional in a coordinated manner within a multidisciplinary team (MDT).

The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted children and families through stressors from multiple dimensions. As a result, CJC has experienced a 40% increase of cases over pre-pandemic levels. While referrals to CJC have decreased, referrals are still at 30% of pre-pandemic levels. Children and families continue to need advocacy and support services from the report of felony-level child abuse and exploitation through the final adjudication in the criminal justice system, in particular due to the delays due to criminal court closures. Furthermore, the demands on the existing forensic interviewer to conduct interviews with these increased numbers of child victims needs to be balanced by time needed to testify in court when criminal charges are filed for these cases. To be able to manage the increased demand, the project interviewer continues to be fully utilized to interview children who are suspected victims and witnesses of felony-level crimes.

The Clark County Council previously awarded ARPA funding to support both project positions through 2023; however, additional grant funds were secured for these positions in 2023 and not all awarded ARPA funds were expended. Through the regular 2024 budget process, CJC requested that these unspent funds carry over into 2024 to support these project positions. CJC has also previously received confirmation from the City of Vancouver to support these positions as a match to County

funds through 2025 once ARPA funds are fully expended. Consequently, no additional funds are being requested from the County to support these positions through 2025.

Forensic interview services and victim support and advocacy for suspected child victims of abuse, exploitation and trauma are central functions of an accredited Children's Advocacy Center. Research demonstrates that a forensic interview coordinated with multidisciplinary team (MDT) members reduces the number of times a child is asked to report their victimization experiences, thereby reducing trauma for children. The coordinated response at CJC also allows law enforcement and child protection investigators to collaborate during the investigation and results in improved health, welfare and safety of children, and prosecutions that more successfully hold offenders accountable for their actions. Once held legally accountable, offenders are less likely to recidivate, and continue to offend other victims, a tertiary prevention method.

Research further demonstrates that support from a parent or caregiver is essential to reducing on-going trauma and improving outcomes for child victims. Client access to, and participation in, investigation, prosecution, treatment and support services are a critical component of the MDT response, as encouraged by coordinated victim advocacy services. Up-to-date information and ongoing access to comprehensive services are critical to a child and family's comfort and ability to participate in an ongoing investigation, possible prosecution, intervention and treatment.

Without the full ability to provide these critical forensic interview and victim advocacy services at these increased numbers, CJC is at risk of losing its accreditation status. CJC receives state and federal funding as an accredited Children's Advocacy Center, and loss of accreditation would result in the subsequent loss of approximately \$210,000 additional dollars from these funding sources.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications for Council policy or collective bargaining parameters and requires no committee appointments. No funds are requested from the County general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This action is requested to continue to meet statutory requirements and formal Interlocal Agreements between the Clark County, the City of Vancouver and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families, among others.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Pursuant to RCW 43.101.224 (Training for persons investigating child sexual abuse.), CJC provides a specially trained forensic interviewer for all referred child victims of sex or violent crimes or child abuse. Pursuant to RCW 7.69A.030 (Rights of child victims and witnesses), CJC employs victim advocates to be present at any investigative, prosecutorial or defense interviews for all child victims of sex or violent crimes or child abuse. Further, CJC is an accredited Children's Advocacy Center, as defined in RCW 26.44.020, and a responding member of the county-wide child abuse response protocols as required by RCWs 26.44.180 and 26.44.185. Roles, tasks and procedures of CJC forensic interviewers and victim advocates are delineated in said child abuse protocols.

As a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and a member agency of the Children's Advocacy Center of Washington, CJC is obligated to ensure child victims and witnesses of child sexual abuse, exploitation and the most serious of physical abuse cases are afforded the services of a specially trained forensic interviewer to ensure their statements related to suspected victimization are elicited in

a manner that is trauma informed, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive and legally defensible.

State and federal laws require that victims of crime, including victims of child abuse, are informed of their rights as crime victims, including information about, and eligibility for, crime victim compensation. Caregivers who are affected by the crime may also be entitled to services. Generally, children and their families are often unfamiliar with their legal rights. Therefore, victim advocates routinely and repeatedly provide information regarding the rights and services available to all child victims and their caregivers.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
	X	Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	\$367,000
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	
Account	Fund 1018
Cost Center	CC262
BASUB	B5670000
Program	PG0060 Advocacy Services PG0062 Forensic Interview Services
Company Name	Children's Justice Center

DISTRIBUTION:

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Amy Russell
CJC Executive Director

Primary Staff Contact Name and Number: Amy Russell – 564.397.5624

Emily Zwetzig
Budget Director

CJC-02-24FL CJC Staff Report – Continuation of Project Positions
11 August 2024

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APPROVED: _____
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: _____

SR# _____

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Otto, County Manager

DATE: _____

BUDGET IMPACT ATTACHMENT

Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information

CJC is seeking continuation of 1.0 FTE CJC Program Victim Advocate (P003219 Victim Advocate) and 1.0 FTE CJC Project Forensic Interviewer (P003160 Program Coordinator I) positions for the remainder of 2024 and ending December 31, 2025. Immediate action is requested; funding to be secured from the City of Vancouver as match pursuant to CJC’s Cost Share Agreement. One employee will provide forensic interview services and the other will provide victim advocacy and support for suspected child victims of felony level abuse and exploitation and witnesses of violent crimes.

Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	2024 Annual Budget		2025 Annual Budget		2026 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
1018 – CJC (CC262)		\$122,222		\$244,444		
Total		\$122,222		\$244,444		

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

Revenue under cost-share agreement with the City of Vancouver.

Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE's	2024 Annual Budget		2025 Annual Budget		2026 Annual Budget	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
1018 – Salary & Benefits	2.0		\$122,222		\$244,444		
Total			\$122,222		\$244,444		

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	2024 Annual Budget		2025 Annual Budget		2026 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits		\$122,222		\$244,444		
Contractual						
Supplies						
Travel & Training						
Other Controllables						
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
Total		\$122,222		\$244,444		

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Children's Justice Center

CJC-04-25AD

DATE: 8 July 2024

REQUESTED ACTION:

Seeking approval for a new 1.0 FTE CJC Victim Advocate position for remainder of 2024 and through December 31, 2025, contingent on financial match of cost-share from City of Vancouver. Immediate action is requested.

 X Consent Hearing County Manager

BACKGROUND

Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center (CJC) is seeking immediate approval for a new position and the hire of a 1.0 FTE victim advocate for the remainder of 2024 and through December 31, 2025, contingent on match of cost-share funding from the City of Vancouver.

CJC was established in 1990 through a countywide Interlocal Agreement to provide a safe, supportive place for child victims of abuse and their nonoffending family members to receive services. CJC was recognized as a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) in 2000, and is sponsored through a public-private collaboration to coordinate child abuse investigations and prosecutions and to support services for child victims and witnesses of violent crimes and their non-offending family members. This 1.0 FTE position is requested to replace a 0.75 FTE previously funded at CJC by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), based on the cost-sharing agreement between the City of Vancouver and Clark County, with the supported by the City of Vancouver as a "match" to nearly a decade of the County-funded 0.75 FTE, with CJC cost-sharing currently broken down at 55% for the City of Vancouver at 45% for Clark County. The 0.75 was recalled to the PAO due to increased demands for victim advocacy services at their main office.

One of the NCA accreditation standards is to ensure children and families have a victim advocate to provide information, support and advocacy services to child victims and witnesses of felony-level crimes and their families. As Clark County emerges out of the COVID-19 pandemic, CJC has continued to see significant increases of referrals and screened in reports of felony level child abuse, exploitation and violence witnessed by children and youth. In 2020, CJC received 1641 referrals from child protective services and law enforcement, and CJC team members conducted 477 felony-level investigations. In 2021, the numbers jumped significantly to 2098 referrals and 667 felony investigations; in 2022, CJC received 2312 referrals and conducted 742 investigations. In 2023, CJC numbers declined slightly to 2277 referrals and 648 investigations. These numbers reflect an approximate increase of 30% of cases over pre-pandemic levels.

Every suspected child victim whose case is investigated CJC has a CJC victim advocate assigned to them, and every case that moves forward in prosecution retains the assigned CJC advocate throughout the life of the criminal case until final adjudication. CJC advocates are also assigned to attend all suspected child abuse medical examinations conducted at partner medical facilities, as well as cases prosecuted by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Child Abuse Unit from outlying law enforcement jurisdictions and for cases that come in as hot and cold arrests where investigations did not originate at CJC. As a result of COVID, the CJC PAO Child Abuse Unit continues to experience significant backlogs of cases. While the Child Abuse Unit has nearly doubled the annual amount of

cases they have carried to trial, the caseloads the remaining CJC Victim Advocates carry continue to increase due to increased intake numbers and the lack of normal attrition of cases with prosecution backlogs. The overall caseload for CJC victim advocates has increased from 424 with a combined 4.5 FTE of victim advocates in 2021 to over 650 cases with a current combined 3.75 FTE of victim advocates. This number reflects a caseload of approximately 173 open cases per victim advocate, where the average caseload for victim advocates at Children's Advocacy Center is less than 50.

Victim support and advocacy for suspected child victims of abuse, exploitation and trauma are central functions of an accredited Children's Advocacy Center. The coordinated response at CJC allows multidisciplinary team members to collaborate during the investigation, with the victim advocate serving as a conduit between enforcement investigators and prosecutors and the children and their families. This coordination results in improved health, welfare and safety of children, and prosecutions that more successfully hold offenders accountable for their actions. Once held legally accountable, offenders are less likely to recidivate or continue to offend other victims, a tertiary method of child abuse prevention.

Research further demonstrates that support from a parent or caregiver is essential to reducing on-going trauma and improving outcomes for child victims. Client access to, and participation in, investigation, prosecution, treatment and support services are a critical component of the MDT response, as encouraged by coordinated victim advocacy services. Up-to-date information and ongoing access to comprehensive services are critical to a child and family's comfort and ability to participate in an ongoing investigation, possible prosecution, intervention and treatment.

The victim advocate role at CJC requires extensive training pursuant to state laws and accreditation standards; this position is unable to carry full caseloads or fully support the rest of the CJC team, not to mention children and families, until at least four months into their employment. Consequently, CJC is requesting approval from Clark County for a new 1.0 FTE victim advocate position, supported by "match" funding from the City of Vancouver through 2025 to take full advantage and wholly benefit from this resource.

Without the full ability to provide these critical victim advocacy services, CJC is at risk of losing its accreditation status. CJC receives state and federal funding as an accredited Children's Advocacy Center, and loss of accreditation would result in the subsequent loss of approximately \$250,000 additional dollars from these funding sources.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications for Council policy or collective bargaining parameters and requires no committee appointments. No funds are requested from the County general fund for this position; funds requested are.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This immediate action is requested to continue to meet statutory requirements and formal Interlocal Agreements between the Clark County, the City of Vancouver and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families, among others.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Pursuant to RCW 7.69A.030 (Rights of child victims and witnesses), CJC employs victim advocates to be present at any investigative, prosecutorial or defense interviews for all child victims of sex or violent

crimes or child abuse. Further, CJC is an accredited Children's Advocacy Center, as defined in RCW 26.44.020, and a responding member of the county-wide child abuse response protocols as required by RCWs 26.44.180 and 26.44.185. Roles, tasks and procedures of CJC victim advocates are delineated in said child abuse protocols.

State and federal laws require that victims of crime, including victims of child abuse, are informed of their rights as crime victims, including information about, and eligibility for, crime victim compensation. Caregivers who are affected by the crime may also be entitled to services. Generally, children and their families are often unfamiliar with their legal rights. Therefore, victim advocates routinely and repeatedly provide information regarding the rights and services available to all child victims and their caregivers.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
X		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	\$85,000
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	
Account	Fund 1018; R0314; B3465000
Cost Center	CC262
BASUB	B5670000
Program	PG0060 – CJC Advocacy Services
Company Name	Children's Justice Center

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Amy Russell, MEd, JD, NCC
CJC Executive Director

Primary Staff Contact Name and Number: Amy Russell – 564.397.5624

CJC Staff Report – New 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate
8 July 2024

Page 4

Emily Zwetzig
Budget Director

APPROVED: _____
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: _____

SR# _____

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Otto, County Manager

DATE: _____

BUDGET IMPACT ATTACHMENT

Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information

CJC is seeking approval for a new 1.0 FTE CJC Victim Advocate funded by “matching” cost-share funds from the City of Vancouver, starting in October 2024 through December 2025. This employee will provide victim advocacy and support for suspected child victims of felony level abuse and exploitation and witnesses of violent crimes.

Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	2024 Annual Budget		2025 Annual Budget		2026 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
1018 – City of Vancouver		\$21,250		\$85,000		
Total		\$21,250		\$85,000		

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

CoV funds have been requested to fund this position through 2025; no general funds are requested. CJC continues to see increases in reports of child abuse, exploitation and other forms of family violence and the 0.75 FTE Victim Advocate position at CJC previously supported by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office has been recalled to the Main Office to address shortages in victim advocacy support services there.

Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTEs	2024 Annual Budget		2025 Annual Budget		2026 Annual Budget	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
1018 – City of Vancouver	1.0		\$21,250		\$85,000		
Total			\$21,250		\$85,000		

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	2024 Annual Budget		2025 Annual Budget		2026 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits		\$21,250		\$85,000		

Contractual						
Supplies						
Travel						
Other Controllables						
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
Total		~\$21,250		~\$85,000		

Amy Russell

From: Ramras, Natasha <Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 3:40 PM
To: Amy Russell
Cc: Fox, Sarah
Subject: RE: CJC Funding Request

Hi Amy,

It would be consistent with prior practices for the city to fund the two positions for one additional year, to match the county ARPA contribution. We can revisit in 2024 as to the permanent funding of the positions. Ideally, it would match the current split of funding based on the caseloads.

Thank you for the heads up on the additional monthly cost increase. Could you please forward to me the current caseload split as of the end of 2021?

Thank you,
Natasha

Natasha Ramras | Chief Financial Officer
CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
Finance and Management Services
415 W 6th St | Vancouver WA 98660
P: 360-487-8484 | TTY: 360-487-8602
www.cityofvancouver.us



From: Amy Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Ramras, Natasha <Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us>
Cc: F [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: CJC Funding Request

Hi, Natasha. My apologies for my delayed response.

For the two positions, my request is that the City would pay for the entire amount for the two positions for 2024 if the ARPA funds from the County are awarded, since the ARPA request was for the entire amount for the two positions for 2023. I anticipate the County will be making a decision soon.

Regarding the new CJC location, we are not certain of new rent amounts, as a new location for CJC has not been determined when our lease expires in May 2024. We did hear last week that the new leasing company taking over the lease in June 2024 may extend CJC's current lease for 3-10 years, but it is not yet confirmed, nor is the rent amount. CJC

will face a slight increase starting next April, for a total of about \$5,000 for the year, which will be split between the City and the County based on three-year average for caseloads.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or need additional information. Thank you.

Amy Russell, MEd, JD, NCC
Executive Director
she/her pronouns (What's this?)
Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center
[REDACTED]
Vancouver, WA 98660
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.clark.wa.gov/cjc

I am currently working via telecommute



From: Ramras, Natasha <Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us>

Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 5:39 PM

To: Amy Russell [REDACTED]

Cc: Fox, Sarah [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: CJC Funding Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Amy,

Thank you for reaching out. We are in the middle of our two year budget preparation.

Just to make sure I understand your request correctly: Would the request be for the proportionate funding by the City of the two positions based on the historical formula we have used over the years to allocate the costs between the City and other jurisdictions CJC supports?

Earlier in the summer you were also sharing a potential cost increase related to your agency moving to a different location. If I remember correctly, at that time, you did not have the city's proportionate cost increase identified. Did you find the location that works and have that figure for me?

Once I have the figures, I will add them to our budget requests. Grant funding, including the stimulus funds are easier to allocate, unlike the on-going funding requests that compete with all other requests from the city agencies.

Thank you,
Natasha

Natasha Ramras | Chief Financial Officer
CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
Finance and Management Services
415 W 6th St | Vancouver WA 98660
P: 360-487-8484 | **TTY:** 360-487-8602
www.cityofvancouver.us



From: Amy Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Ramras, Natasha <Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us>
Cc: Fox, Sara [REDACTED]
Subject: CJC Funding Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Natasha. I am reaching out with a funding request for CJC. Back in December of 2021, the CJC Executive Board approved an application to Clark County for ARPA funds to hire a new 1.0 FTE victim advocate for 2022 to handle the increased caseload of child abuse victims attributable to the pandemic. In 2021, CJC experienced a 30% increase in child abuse cases over 2019 pre-pandemic levels; to date in 2022, we are seeing 40% more cases than pre-pandemic (please see attached case comparisons for year-end 2019-2021 and year-to-date for 2020-2022). The Clark County Council approved ARPA funds for this position to continue to meet the increased demand. CJC was also able to hire a new 1.0 FTE forensic interviewer with CESFP (COVID) funds in 2021 to help with the increased demand for forensic interviews with children. These funds were administered by the Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington.

Unfortunately, both of these funding streams end at the end of 2022. CJC has requested ARPA funds in the amount of \$198,000 from Clark County to carry these positions through 2023; the County Council will be discussing this request at the September 6th Council meeting. One of the questions/concerns the Council members will have is sustainability for these two positions. I would like to be able to indicate at the meeting that the City of Vancouver, a partner agency for CJC, would be able to financially support these two positions in 2024, consistent with the CJC Interlocal Agreement. This would allow CJC to fully provide services to child victims of abuse and exploitation, as well as their families, as required by its accreditation standards. It would also enable CJC to assess the ongoing impact of COVID on child abuse reports in our community, and determine whether and how these two positions could be sustained beyond 2024, as appropriate.

I understand this is a big ask, far in advance of the 2024 budget cycle; however, City support would be an effective demonstration of good faith to the County and will help in their decision-making process for 2023 County ARPA funds. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request; I look forward to your response.

Amy Russell, MEd, JD, NCC
Executive Director
she/her pronouns (What's this?)
Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center

[REDACTED]
Vancouver, WA 98660

[REDACTED]
www.clark.wa.gov/cjc

I am currently working via telecommute

