



For Immediate Release

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MOUNT VERNON—At their most recent meeting, City Council gave final approval to Mayor Boudreau’s proposed list of 2019 Legislative Priorities for the City of Mount Vernon.

The list was formed in partnership with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC); and it names specific items that the Mayor and Council believe are the most pressing topics needing to be brought before our Washington State legislators.

The City’s newly completed Flood Protection and Revitalization Project will “lift” the city’s historic downtown core out of the 100-year flood zone, and will position local businesses for even greater success in the years to come.

“We are transitioning now into the economic development phase of our master plan with an exciting community infrastructure project,” Mayor Boudreau said, referring to the mixed-use Library/Community Center/Parking Structure project. A collaborative venture that is listed as the first item of the City’s 2019 Legislative Priorities.

The named priorities that City leadership is anticipating to bring before the State legislature include:

- A \$4 million request for a State Capital budget allocation to assist the City and Skagit County in funding a joint-project Public Library/Community Center/Parking Structure
- A funding request for Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes
- A request to reserve State-shared revenues with cities

- A number of Homelessness & Housing requests, to include expansion of housing choices and affordability, an increase of density regulations, funding of the Housing Trust Fund, and increased funding for mental health services.
- Addressing the failing behavioral health system with practical programs such as mental health co-responder programs, permanent supportive housing, and a mental health system that provides regional equity.

The included two-page document from the City reveals a more detailed look at the city's 2019 Legislative Priorities.

#END#



PARTNERS IN THE CARE OF OUR STATE'S RESIDENTS

Mount Vernon supports legislation & shared revenue to acknowledge that Cities and Towns are where most residents live, work and play in our State.

CITY/ STATE PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY! COLLABORATION ENSURES SOLUTIONS FOR ALL



Thanks to a strong state partnership the Downtown Mount Vernon Flood Protection and Revitalization Project will protect Mount Vernon's historic downtown from flooding with FEMA certified flood protection and serve to revitalize the historic downtown area.

We are now moving into the economic development phase of our master plan with an infrastructure project:



MIXED USE Library/Community Center/Parking Structure – a partnership project with Skagit County

After extensive community outreach and planning efforts, our city requires a facility that will serve as social infrastructure for early learning, computer literacy, after school learning, Meals on Wheels and senior lunch program, and community events that build resiliency as a small city.

As our historic core realizes more dense housing development (to include bona-fide affordable units), hotel development, business development we have determined the need for 300+ parking spaces, and plan to achieve as many spaces as possible within this project.

We request a State Capital budget allocation of \$4 million to assist our City and Skagit County in achieving this partner project.

FUND CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING CENTER (CJTC)

We support funding for at least 19 Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes per year. **New officers are waiting months for a slot** – delaying them being used in the community as commissioned officers with ability to enforce.

RESERVE STATE-SHARED REVENUES WITH CITIES

Mount Vernon uses \$1.2 million in state shared revenue for public safety services including the enforcement of State DUI laws and ensuring compliance with State liquor and cannabis regulation.

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING



Support “infill” development solutions and address condominium liability to expand housing choices and affordability.

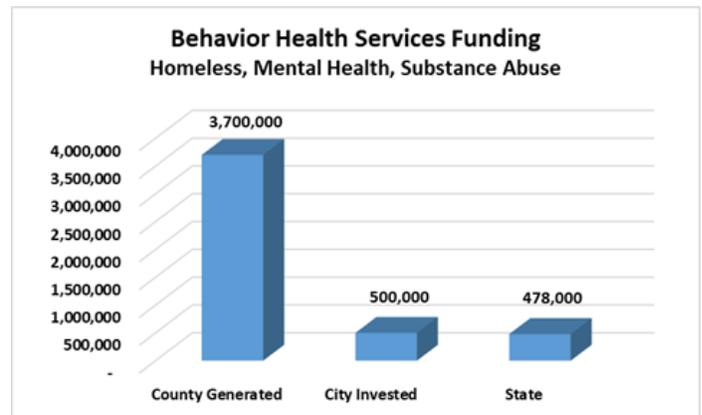
We strongly oppose State mandates of density. This directly undermines the Growth Management Act and every jurisdiction's requirement to produce Comprehensive Plans.

These plans account for growth by data driven research and significant public process.

Cities take care of 65% of the State population and shoulder the burden of homelessness on our streets. **Strengthen city decision-making role in allocating resources provided to counties to address housing and homelessness in cities.**

We support:

- \$200 million funding to the **Housing Trust Fund**
- **Fund permanent supportive housing projects at a higher rate to address homeless crisis**
- **Increase funding for mental health services-** specifically intensive treatment for indigent individuals
- Invest \$20 million per year in a new local government revenue sharing proposal (like HB 2437 in 2018 session)
- Invest \$1.5 million per year for a pilot to allow for reinvestment of the sales tax from the construction of multifamily development modeled on HB 1797 (2018 session)



ADDRESS A FAILING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM WITH PRACTICAL PROGRAMS

Cities take care of 65% of the State population and shoulder the burden of homelessness on our streets.

The City of Mount Vernon would like to partner with the State for ‘pilot’ opportunities for mental health urgent care centers or other innovative and flexible programs. We are small enough to enact programs quickly and committed to creative solutions.

We support:

Mental health co-responder programs

Permanent Supportive Housing priority: Cities face significant challenges in trying to address chronically ill individuals for whom long-term care services simply do not exist. As a result, these individuals end up on our streets and often cycle in and out of contact with local law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Cities need a **mental health system that provides regional equity** so that all areas of the state have access to good quality mental health facilities.