

City of Mill Creek Legislative Committee



For the 2023 Legislative Session, the Mill Creek City Council instituted a Legislative Committee to spearhead legislative goals of the City Council in collaboration with City Staff as subject matter experts. The Council approved priorities for their *2023 Legislative Agenda* that included funding for infrastructure planning and improvements, public records reform, policing, housing, and regional transportation. Through the process of closely monitoring State bills and working in conjunction with Associated Washington Cities (AWC), the City pursued capital funding (which was awarded in the amount of \$1,030,000) and expressed our opinion on multiple bills by actively engaging our State legislators either via in-person meetings, Zoom conference, and/or letters during public hearings.

Funded - Public Works Assistance Account

\$400 million went to the Public Works Assistance Account, which honors the sunset of revenue diversions to education, but continues the \$114 million diversion to the Move Ahead Washington transportation package passed last year. The City supported the full funding and is thankful that this was included in the State's capital budget.

Hold - Public Records Act

Despite new legislation addressing the problem of potential misuse of current laws in regard to the Public Records Act, we will continue to meet with our State Legislators to support future legislation that addresses this topic.

Funded - Dobson, Remillard, Church, and Cook (DRCC) Properties

The City requested funding for the post-concept stage of the planning process that will entail engineering and construction planning. This will enable us to move forward with the planning process. Funding was included in the State 2023-2025 Capital Budget at \$1.03 million.

Funded - City Hall North Building North Improvements

The City requested funding for major repairs including replacement of the HVAC system, roof replacement, and other internal improvements. These improvements will allow us to continue to provide community value services to our residents and businesses. Funding was included in the State 2023-2025 Capital Budget at \$515 thousand.

Passed – Concerning Vehicle Pursuits

Senate Bill 5352 was closely monitored by the City as public safety is one of our community's highest priorities. The City supported clarification around the ability for law enforcement to conduct effective and safe vehicle pursuits using a reasonable suspicion standard in specific circumstances when there is an immediate threat to public safety. The City believes this is a good first step, but are hopeful for additional work from the State Legislature in next year's session.

Failed – Concerning Controlled Substances, Counterfeit Substances, and Legend Drug Possession and Treatment

The City also closely monitored **Senate Bill 5536**. The City supports clarification around the crime of possessing a controlled substance so that individuals, law enforcement, and treatment providers can respond appropriately. This bill did not pass and a special session has been scheduled for May 16th. The City will continue to closely monitor.

Passed – Increasing Middle Housing in Areas Traditionally Dedicated to Single-Family Detached Housing

House Bill 1110 was one of the most contentious bills for Council this session. Traditionally, land use decisions such as density zoning have been left up to the cities. The City advocated for maintaining local control through advocacy in the form of sending a letter to the Senate Housing Committee and Senate Ways and Means Committee as the bill moved through the process, but ultimately was unsuccessful in its impact. However, talks did result in the density level being reduced from what was originally proposed. Final details are still being worked out to determine its direct impact on the City.

Failed - Promoting Transit-Oriented Development

The City advocated for changes to the required mandated level of "transit-oriented density" as defined in **Senate Bill 5466** to apply to each "station area." The inadequate treatment of "frequent bus stops" and "major transit stops" in our relatively smaller community to the same as Core and Metropolitan cities did not feel appropriate or necessary, in the City's opinion. To relay our concerns, the Legislative Committee sent a letter to the House Housing Committee. Senate Bill 5466 ultimately failed to pass, and we will continue to closely monitor any new bills with the same density requirements related to transit in the next legislative session.