



Des Moines
WATERLAND CITY

AGENDA
DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
City Council Chambers
21630 11th Avenue S, Suite C
Des Moines, Washington
Thursday, October 2, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Members of the public who wish to provide comment during the meeting via Zoom must register in advance. To register, please email cityclerk@desmoineswa.gov by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. [Click Zoom Link Here.](#)

City Council meeting can be viewed live on the City's website, Comcast Channel 21/321, on the City's [YouTube](#) channel.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
5:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS

- Item 1. PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION
Please refer to the September 25, 2026 Agenda Packet, New Business Item # 2 for more detail.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNDER RCW
42.30.110(1)(g) - 15 Minutes

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION,
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Comments from the public must be limited to the items of business on the Study Session Agenda. Please sign in prior to the meeting and limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Item 1. 2026 LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION
[Discussion of 2026 City Legislative Priorities](#)
[2025 City of Des Moines Legislative Priorities](#)
- Item 2. COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT SERVICE (CES) DEPARTMENT
UPDATE & STRATEGIC DIRECTION-INFORMATIONAL ONLY
Staff Presentation by Assistant City Manager Adrienne Johnson-Newton
[CES Department Update and Strategic Direction-Informational Only](#)
- Item 3. PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX
Motion: To pass Draft Ordinance 25-053 to a second reading at the
October 9, 2025 regular Council meeting.
[Public Safety Sales Tax](#)
[Draft Ordinance No. 25-053](#)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 9, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

[Projected Future Agenda Items](#)



Des Moines
WATERLAND CITY

Mission & Vision

Des Moines is a waterfront community committed to maintaining a safe, sustainable environment, while ensuring a high quality of life for all to live, work and play.

VISION

To be the premier waterfront destination in the Pacific Northwest.

VALUES

Core Values of the City of Des Moines are:

- Safety
- Sustainability
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Innovation

AGENDA ITEM

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: Discussion of 2026 City Legislative
Priorities

FOR AGENDA OF: October 2, 2025

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: Administration

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025 City of Des Moines Legislative
Priorities

DATE SUBMITTED: September 24, 2025

CLEARANCES:

- City Clerk _____
- Community Development _____
- Courts _____
- Finance _____
- Human Resources _____
- Legal /TG/
- Marina _____
- Police _____
- Parks, Recreation & Senior Services _____
- Public Works _____

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

FOR SUBMITTAL: *Katherine Coffey*

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this agenda item is for the City Council to generally discuss potential 2026 City Council Legislative Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session.

Background

The State Legislative Session convenes in January 2026 for a “short” sixty-day session and will end in March. It is anticipated that the session will focus on difficult budget issues.

The City’s Legislative Advocate, Anthony Hemstad, will lead the City Council in an initial discussion about the upcoming session and what the City Council’s legislative priorities may be in the coming year.

A copy of the 2025 Legislative Priorities is attached to this item for reference.



2025 City of Des Moines City Council State Legislative Priorities

Public Safety

Collaborate with AWC, WASPC and other groups in efforts to secure more public safety (in particular behavioral health) funding for local governments, including:

- Amending existing local option Public Safety Sales Tax to allow councilmanic implementation and greater flexibility for using the funds.
- Supporting Governor Ferguson's initiative to get more funding to public safety – and ensure that those funds are shared with local governments.

Funding Requests

Enhancing Local Government Financial Resources. Support lifting the 1% property tax cap and allowing further local government financing tools to address the crisis many local governments have with general government funding.

Redondo Fishing Pier. The Redondo Fishing Pier is a regional attraction that was very popular when it was open. It needs to be replaced this biennium and can be if funding is available. **Capital Budget request: \$2 million.**

Airport Issues

Support locating a permanent air quality monitor in Des Moines, including needed budget allocation.

Support State funding for a City-led, independent airport community impacts study to evaluate the ongoing impacts of the SAMP.

Support further enhancements to SB5955 and RCW53 to provide more opportunities for sound insulation repair and replacement, and to also allow unconstrained funding for mitigation of the public health impacts of airport operations.

Support the joint StART Airport Community Legislative Agenda.

Historic Preservation

Support historic preservation funding opportunities in Des Moines.

Ferry Development

Electric passenger-only ferries have the potential to improve connectivity and mobility around Puget Sound. Foil ferries are much quieter, faster and reduce impacts to marine life in Puget Sound. *Des Moines supports new grant funding to spur the return of Mosquito Fleet passenger-only ferries that will include routes connecting Des Moines.*

*For information, please contact City of Des Moines Legislative Advocate
Anthony Hemstad, 253.335.9163, anthony@hemstad.us*



2025 City of Des Moines City Council State Legislative Priorities

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Anthony Hemstad, 253.335.9163, anthony@hemstad.us*

A G E N D A I T E M

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: CES Department Update & Strategic
Direction-Informational Only

FOR AGENDA OF: October 2, 2025

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: City Manager's Office

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE SUBMITTED: September 23, 2025

CLEARANCES:

- Community Development _____
- Marina _____
- Community Enrichment Services *AJ*
- Public Works _____
- Legal s/TG
- Finance _____
- Human Resources _____
- Courts _____
- Police _____

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

FOR SUBMITTAL: *Katherine Coffey*

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Council with an overview of Community Enrichment Services (CES), the City's newly unified department that combines Parks, Recreation, Senior Services, Events, and Facility Rentals. The presentation will highlight the department's transition, introduce the operational model now in place, and outline the strategic direction that will guide CES moving forward. This item is presented for Council information and discussion. No formal action is requested at this time; however, staff welcomes Council's feedback and thoughts to ensure our planning efforts remain aligned with Council's vision and priorities.

Background

The City formally consolidated Parks, Recreation, Senior Services, Events, and Facility Rentals into a single department in 2025. Previously, these program areas operated independently, with each managing its own services and activities. The consolidation has since progressed into the formation of Community Enrichment Services (CES), with the goal of ensuring that, regardless of whether a resident is participating in recreation, senior services, events, or rentals, they are recognized as a CES customer. This unified approach allows the City to think about programs and services more holistically, work in

tandem across functions, and align resources to better serve the community as a whole.

Discussion

This presentation will provide Council with an overview of Community Enrichment Services (CES) and its recent transition from separately managed program areas, Parks & Recreation, Senior Services, Events, and Facility Rentals into a coordinated department. It will introduce the CES organizational structure and staff, outline the operational model now in place, and describe how CES is using data, resident input, and peer city comparisons to guide programming and budget decisions.

As part of this work, CES conducted a community survey from August 22 through September 15, 2025, promoted through social media, email signatures, bilingual flyers, paper copies at City facilities, and outreach at events such as the Farmers Market and Blues & Brews. These efforts resulted in 328 responses, providing valuable insight into resident priorities. Results showed strong engagement with City events, high overall satisfaction with CES programs, and clear priorities for the future: events, fitness and wellness, arts and culture, family activities, and senior services. Demographic data also highlighted the importance of accessibility and inclusion, with nearly one-third of respondents identifying as disabled.

The presentation will highlight these findings, share recent programmatic successes, and outline focus areas for 2026, including facility rentals, events, and expanded partnerships.

Alternatives

N/A

Recommendation or Conclusion

N/A

AGENDA ITEM

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: Public Safety Sales Tax

FOR AGENDA OF: October 2, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Ordinance no. 25-053

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: Legal

DATE SUBMITTED: September 22, 2025

CLEARANCES:

- City Clerk _____
- Community Development _____
- Courts _____
- Finance *ML*
- Human Resources _____
- Legal */s/TG*
- Marina _____
- Police *MB*
- Parks, Recreation & Senior Services _____
- Public Works _____

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

FOR SUBMITTAL: *Katherine Coffey*

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Council to consider on first reading Draft Ordinance 25-053 which would enact a 0.1% additional sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes.

Suggested Motion

Motion 1: "I move to pass Draft Ordinance 25-053 to a second reading at the October 9, 2025 regular Council meeting."

Background

On May 19, 2025, the Governor signed into law Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2015. The law, which took effect July 27, 2025, creates two new sources of revenue for local jurisdictions to help fund criminal justice activities in order to promote public safety. The first source of revenue was through the creation of a new local law enforcement grant program to provide direct support to local and tribal law enforcement agencies in hiring, retaining, and training law enforcement officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response to increase community policing and public safety.

The second new source of revenue, relevant to this item, was the creation of a new sales and use tax available to cities and counties additional to, and not subject to any offset from, any other sales and use tax imposed. The amount of the tax equals 0.1% of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

To be eligible to impose the tax, a city's law enforcement agency must meet the requirements to be eligible to receive grant funds under ESHB 2015. These requirements include:

- Issue and implement policies and practices consistent with RCW 43.17.425 and 10.93.160, and the office of the attorney general's keep Washington working act guide, model policies, and training recommendations for state and local law enforcement agencies;
- Participate in Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) training as required by RCW 43.101.455 and 36.28A.445;
- Issue and implement policies and practices regarding use of force and de-escalation tactics, including, but not limited to, duty to intervene and training and use of canine teams;
- Implement use of force data collection and reporting when the program is operational;
- Issue and implement policies and practices addressing firearm relinquishment pursuant to court orders;
- 25% officer completion rate with the commission's 40-hour crisis intervention team training;
- 100% officer compliance rate for those officers required to complete trauma-informed, gender-based violence interviewing, investigation, response, and case review training developed or approved by the CJTC, and if requested by the commission, participated in agency case reviews;
- Received funding from a sales and use tax authorized pursuant to RCW 82.14.340 or 82.14.450, or authorized pursuant to RCW 82.14.345 before the awarding of the grant;
- A chief of police, marshal, or sheriff who is certified by the criminal justice training commission pursuant to this chapter and who has not been convicted of a felony or a gross misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption; and
- Issue and implement policies and practices that prohibit volunteers who assist with agency work from enforcing criminal laws, including that they must be clearly identifiable by the public as distinguishable from peace officers and any identifying insignia must be officially issued by the agency and used only when on duty.

The agency is required to submit documentation to CJTC establishing that the agency meets all of the requirements in order to collect the tax.

Additionally, a city is not eligible to impose the tax if the voters have within the last year either rejected a ballot proposition to impose a criminal justice sales and use tax authorized under RCW 82.14.450 or repealed a council-imposed criminal justice sales and use tax authorized under RCW 82.14.340.

Monies received from the tax can only be used for criminal justice purposes. This is defined as “activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice and behavioral health systems occurs.” This would include traditionally understood criminal justice purposes such as police recruitment and retention or courts, as well as the following examples specified in ESHB 2015:

- Domestic violence services, such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates;
- Staffing adequate public defenders to provide appropriate defense for individuals;
- Diversion programs;
- Reentry work for inmates;
- Local government programs that have a reasonable relationship to reducing the numbers of people interacting with the criminal justice system including, but not limited to, reducing homelessness or improving behavioral health;
- Community placements for juvenile offenders; and
- Community outreach and assistance programs, alternative response programs, and mental health crisis response including, but not limited to, the recovery navigator program.

Discussion

After making one minor clarification to policy, Des Moines Police believes they meet the policy, practice, and training requirements to be eligible for either a grant or to impose the sales and use tax under the new law. The Department has developed policies on use of force and the Keeping Washington Working Act which has been reviewed by the Attorney General’s office. The City receives proceeds from King County’s public safety sales tax, satisfying that requirement.

The final outstanding requirement related to participation is a use of force data collection and reporting program. At the time ESHB 2015 passed, the referenced program was not yet finalized. Recently, DMPD has signed a data sharing agreement with WSU and worked with Lexipol to put a new database in place that is WADEPS compliant for use of force investigations, which should put the Department in compliance with this requirement.

The Department is putting together the final submission for CJTC and anticipates being ready to submit by September 20. Once the submission is received, CJTC shall verify compliance within 45 days or notify the City of any deficiencies. If the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the proceeds of the tax will be withheld until CJTC can confirm compliance.

The proposed tax would be an additional one tenth of one cent per dollar on purchases of taxable goods and services in the City of Des Moines, bringing the total rate from 10.2% to 10.3%. Based on sales tax revenue over the past few years, the annual proceeds from the proposed tax would total approximately \$450,000 in the first years. These funds would be restricted by law to criminal justice purposes. Anticipated needs in this area that could be funded by the tax include police recruitment and retention, increased public defender costs, mental health crisis response, alternative response programs, or any other qualifying public safety priority the Council decides.

At the September 25, 2026 City Council Meeting, Council unanimously passed moving this Draft Ordinance to the October 2, 2025 Study Session for further discussion and consideration.

Alternatives

The Council Rules do not permit the Council to enact an ordinance at Study Session and also requires two readings of an ordinance. Council may:

1. Pass the draft ordinance as presented to a future meeting
2. Pass the draft ordinance with changes to a future meeting
3. Decline to take action on the draft ordinance

Financial Impact

The proposed sales and use tax is projected to bring in approximately an additional \$450,000 per year for criminal justice purposes. Implementation of this tax or not will not affect the ability of DMPD to apply for grants from the new program.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Council pass the draft ordinance for a second reading at the October 9, 2025 regular Council meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S FIRST DRAFT 09/22/2025

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 25-053

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, WASHINGTON relating to finance, imposing a sales and use tax for public safety purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345, fixing the rate of the tax, defining the permissible uses of the proceeds of the tax, and adding and codifying a new chapter to Title 3 DMMC entitled "Additional Sales and Use Tax for Public Safety."

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2015 in the 2025 Regular Session, and

WHEREAS, ESHB 2015 is intended to improve public safety funding by providing resources to local governments through the creation of a grant program and enabling local governments to enact an additional public safety sales and use tax, and

WHEREAS, Section 201 of ESHB 2015, codified at RCW 82.14.345, permits cities and counties who meet certain requirements to enact a 0.1% sales and use tax by June 30, 2028, the proceeds of which can only be used for criminal justice purposes, and

WHEREAS, a dedicated additional sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes would provide much needed funding for the City of Des Moines to protect public safety in a time of scarce resources, and

WHEREAS, a city may not impose the public safety sales and use tax authorized under RCW 82.14.345 if the voters have repealed by referendum a tax imposed pursuant to RCW 82.14.340 or rejected a ballot proposition to impose a tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 in the previous 12 months, and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines has neither repealed by referendum a tax imposed pursuant to RCW 82.14.340 nor rejected a ballot proposition to impose a tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 in the previous 12 months, and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.345 requires that any city seeking to impose a sales and use tax for public safety purposes meet the requirements of RCW 43.101.540, and

Ordinance No. ____
Page 2 of 4

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines has issued and implemented policies and practices that meet the requirements of RCW 43.101.540, and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2025 the City submitted documentation to the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), in the form and manner prescribed by the CJTC, demonstrating that the City meets the requirements as required by law, and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the City has met the requirements under RCW 82.14.345(1)(c), permitting the City to impose a sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes under RCW 82.14.345, and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that implementation of a sales tax to fund public safety services is necessary and appropriate to protect public health, welfare, and the environment; now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1. Findings. The City Council adopts all of the "whereas" sections of this Ordinance as findings to support this Ordinance.

Sec. 2. Imposition. Beginning January 1, 2026, there is imposed a sales or use tax, as the case may be as authorized by RCW 82.14.345, upon every taxable event, as defined in RCW 82.14.020, occurring within the city. The tax shall be imposed upon and collected from those persons from whom the state sales tax or use tax is collected pursuant to chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The tax shall be in addition to any other taxes imposed or levied under any existing law or ordinance.

Sec. 3. Rate. The rate of tax imposed by section 2 of this ordinance shall be one tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

Sec. 4. Use of tax monies received. When required by RCW 82.14.345(3), moneys received from the sales and use tax

Ordinance No. ____
Page 3 of 4

imposed by section 1 of this ordinance shall be used only for the purposes provided in RCW 82.14.350(3).

Sec. 5. Administration - Collection. The administration and collection of the tax imposed by this chapter shall be in accordance with the provisions of RCW 82.14.540.

Sec. 6. Contract with Department of Revenue. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is authorized to enter into a contract with the Department of Revenue for the administration of this tax.

Sec. 7. Reporting. When required by RCW 82.14.345(4) the City shall, within one calendar year of imposition of the tax and annually thereafter, make a report to the Association of Washington Cities on how the moneys received from the tax were expended.

Sec. 8. Codification. Sections 2 through 7 of this ordinance shall be codified as a new chapter in Title 3 DMMC entitled "*Additional Sales and Use Tax for Public Safety Purposes.*"

Sec. 9. Severability - Construction.

(1) If a section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

(2) If the provisions of this Ordinance are found to be inconsistent with other provisions of the Des Moines Municipal Code, this Ordinance is deemed to control.

Sec. 10. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after its passage, approval, and publication in accordance with law.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Des Moines this ____ day of _____, 2025 and signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Ordinance No. ____
Page 4 of 4

M A Y O R

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Published:

Effective Date:

CITY ATTORNEY'S FIRST DRAFT 09/22/2025

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City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

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