



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 9.D.
For Meeting of: August 20, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Resolution accepting and authorizing TSRP (Traffic Safety Resource Program) funding to add a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor position to the Legal Department

SUBMITTED BY: Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

Fatal and serious traffic collisions are statistically up in the entire state and typically involve substance abuse. The trends are especially alarming in Yakima County. The Traffic Safety Resource Program (TSRP) is interested in funding City of Yakima participation in DUI Court and a TSRP Resource Prosecutor position. Our office has discussed DUI Court in the past and has been interested, but due to the cost and staff commitment, we did not have the resources to seriously consider participation.

DUI Court is a Yakima District Court program available to repeat DUI offenders. Participants plead up front and receive intensive treatment and weekly monitoring for a five-year period. If successful, the defendant receives a reduction of the charge and a firmly rooted new lifestyle. We do have a number of offenders who would be eligible for the program. See statistic presentation attached.

Although TSRP is interested in funding our participation in DUI Court, which includes paying the judge, public defender, cost of UA, probation, and the cost of the prosecutor. The prosecution division does not have the personnel bandwidth to devote time to another program.

As a result, TSRP has offered to fund a Resource Prosecutor in the Legal Department. TSRP desires to have a Central Washington presence and had funded a Resource Prosecutor at Yakima County for a time. When Yakima County started to experience severe staffing shortages, they withdrew from the program. TSRP has approached the City in the past about hosting this position, but City Legal lacked the office space to house the Resource Prosecutor. The soon-to-start remodel of the Legal Department will give us the space to accommodate the position.

A Resource Prosecutor is a prosecutor employed by the host agency (City of Yakima) that is fully funded by TSRP (salary, benefits, equipment, and other costs). TSRP has been funding Resource Prosecutors for the past 15 years in Washington State and they have never pulled funding for a Resource Prosecutor position. The Resource Prosecutor is a resource for officers, prosecutors and judges. They conduct training, provide technical assistance, create resource documents, and take on limited in house cases and projects. In our case the resource prosecutor would staff the DUI court. Our traffic prosecutors handle a large caseload and would welcome the limited help.

If the Council passes this resolution, the City will advertise the TSRP Resource Prosecutor position.

Once a candidate is identified, a budget and agreement between the Legal Department and TSRP would be reduced to a formal contract for Council consideration. The City's commitment would be the office space, information technology, and Human Resource support.

ITEM BUDGETED: Yes

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25: A Safe and Healthy Yakima

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Res-TSRP Funding_TSR Prosecutor.docx](#)

[DUI Court Analytics_Jun 2024.pdf](#)