



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

Item No. 9.D.
For Meeting of: April 7, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Ordinance adopting a six-month moratorium on the filing and acceptance of development applications for, and the location of, and issuance of permits and approvals for, land uses that consist of or include halfway houses as defined in Yakima Municipal Code 15.02.020 and secure community transition facilities as defined herein; directing development of comprehensive zoning and business regulations pertaining to halfway houses and secure community transition facilities; providing that the moratorium shall be in effect for six months, through October 6, 2026; and declaring an emergency providing for immediate effective date.

SUBMITTED BY: Sara Watkins, City Attorney

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

The State of Washington is seeking to site “secure community transition facilities” in jurisdictions pursuant to RCW 71.09. These facilities are defined in a way that likely places them under the term “halfway house” in the Yakima Municipal Code. Since there is not a specific definition or land use regulations for secure community transition facilities, and since the definitions and regulations regarding halfway houses require updating, a proposed moratorium on filing and accepting development applications and permits for both halfway houses and secure community transition facilities is in front of Council. Moratoriums require public hearings, so, if passed by unanimous vote tonight, it will go into effect immediately and a public hearing will be scheduled for May 12, 2026. If the moratorium does not pass unanimously, it will go into effect 30 days after publication and the hearing will be the same date.

ITEM BUDGETED: N/A

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25: A Safe and Healthy Yakima

RECOMMENDATION: N/A.

ATTACHMENTS:

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