

Residents use online tool for proposed Comp Plan update comments

New topics are proposed updates to county's growth management plan

Several new topics regarding the proposed update of the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan are now available for public comment at the online platform, Engage Clark County.

Engage Clark County enables community members to offer ideas and comments on a variety of topics. Currently, the focus is proposed components of the county's state-mandated comprehensive plan. During the months-long plan update process, approximately 370 registered Clark County subscribers have used the feedback tool pro-

vided by Peak Democracy. Subscribers receive an email notifying them when a new survey question about the proposed plan update is posted. They can share comments and new ideas, give feedback on recommended changes to the plan, comment on other subscribers' ideas and expand on discussion topics. Residents who register with Engage Clark County may provide comments without showing their name.

Comprehensive plan update questions will be available through Wednesday, May 11. Comments will be given to the Planning Commission and Board of County Councilors as part of the public record for joint hearings on the proposed update. Anyone can submit a com-

ment to Engage Clark County, but only comments from registered subscribers will be visible in the online forum. However, all comments will be submitted to the public record and posted at www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/plan-adoption.

To join Engage Clark County, go to www.clark.wa.gov/engage-clark-county. Residents also can submit comments by:

- Using this form: www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments
- Emailing comp.plan@clark.wa.gov
- Mailing them to Clark County Community Planning, Attn: 2016 Comp Plan Record, P.O. Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

First installment of property taxes due May 2

Doug Lasher, Clark County treasurer, stated that first-installment property taxes are due on Monday, May 2.

"If you have not received your 2016 first-installment tax statement or have lost it, you can visit our website at www.clark.wa.gov/treasurer or contact the Treasurer's Office at 397-2252 for a duplicate statement," Lasher said.

The Treasurer's Office is located on the second floor of the Public Service Center at 1300 Franklin Street (one block north of the Clark County Court House).

Taxpayers may pay their property taxes online using a credit/debit card or from their checking/savings account. While credit/debit card payments are assessed

a 2.3% fee that you can go to tre.ph46.tio.mi



If mailing a tax payment, it should be mailed to the Clark County Treasurer, PO Box 9808, Vancouver, Washington 98666-8808. Tax payments must be post-marked by Monday, May 2, to avoid interest charges. Taxpayers are encouraged to use the return envelope and payment coupon provided with their statement to mail their payments.

BGGP

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Richardson said.

The state legislature took up the issue of body cameras in House Bill 2362, recently signed by Gov. Jay Inslee.

The bill defines what kind

of body-camera footage is private under the Public Records Act, and creates a task force to determine how the cameras should be used.

Richardson said he gets calls regularly from companies that make body cameras asking if he's considered the device.

While the added transparency

is a bonus, Richardson said it can come with hidden costs.

"Video requests are very expensive," he said.

Every time a citizen makes a public record request for a video, the police department would have to go through and edit the video to protect the identity of bystanders or victims, or to avoid releasing information about active investigations.

Richardson previously worked in Southern California, where police cars had dashboard cameras, he said.

The cameras helped verify what actually happens during a traffic stop or a confrontation, he said, and can either confirm or disprove complaints from citizens.

"The issue is, how do you balance the right to privacy versus the public's right to know," he said.

The infrastructure needed to retain recordings also comes at a price, he said.

"The body cameras are pretty cheap," Richardson said, adding that the cameras cost about \$500 per officer.

Recording the video might be comparatively cheap, but the cost to store the footage adds up quickly.

"Then you have to say, 'How many terabytes of storage are you going to need?'" he said. "That's when the cost is."

While the department is not yet ready to pursue body cam-

eras, Richardson said it is making other improvements.

The department recently hired its 23rd officer, getting the department up to full strength for the first time in several years, Richardson said.

Before the recession, the department had 27 officers.

"We're starting to get caught up," he said. "Anytime we're short people, everyone's got to work a little harder."

Later this year, the department also plans to make an active crime map available for the public to see.

The map will be managed by BAIR Analytics, a company that already keeps track of crime data for the department's use.

Gov. Jay Inslee signs bill on police body cameras

OLYMPIA (AP) — Gov. Jay Inslee on Friday signed a bill that seeks to keep police body-camera videos available to the public while limiting broad requests for the footage.



GOV. JAY INSLEE

House Bill 2362 sets rules on what body-camera footage is presumed to be private under the Public Records Act, sets up a task force to examine best practices for their use and encourages police agencies that plan to use the cameras to adopt policies related to their use.

Under the new law, certain videos would be presumptively private, such as footage that shows a dead body, was recorded in a home or shows a minor. Such footage would be withheld unless the requester can demonstrate that the video is of legitimate public concern.

The bill would limit broad requests for copies of the videos by requiring the requester provide the name of a person involved in the incident, the date, time and location of the incident or the case number.

The measure was among more than 80 bills Inslee was signing Friday.

Inslee also signed House Bill 2908, which creates a task force to study use of deadly force by law enforcement. The new law will bring together a host of organizations and state agencies to study existing deadly-force law and potential ways to reduce violent interactions between police and members of the public.

The task force would report findings and any recommended changes in law to the Legislature.

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