

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

November 12, 2020

- 1. Billings Legislative Meeting Summary** - Approximately 25 legislators, council members and staff participated in an introductory meeting this past Tuesday over Zoom. The meeting can be viewed on the City's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Billings-MT-City-Government-74352842013> . The strongest consensus was around public safety. See the below DRAFT agenda for our next meeting tentatively scheduled for December 3 over Zoom from 5:30-7:00pm.
- 2. Veterans Park Celebration** – I had a few minutes to discuss with Governor Elect Gianforte the highlights of our legislative discussions from our Tuesday evening meeting. Three topics that rose towards the top of the list are: 1 - the number of State prisoners that are occupying our jail and thus negatively impacted our police departments ability to fight crime as well as the fact that the State doesn't even cover the direct costs for housing their inmates; 2 – Over 75% of the State's parolees and early release inmates are released into Billings and their crime recidivism rates costs the City a lot of money; 3 – We want to discuss a plan to allow the State's Division of Criminal Investigations to lead all officer involved shooting investigations in accordance with best practices.
- 3. Project Re-Code** – Several hours were spent throughout the week by our team listening, sharing information and clarifying facts from fiction regarding project Re-Code. Please don't lose sight of the fact that our community has been asking for an improved set of baseline standards for development and redevelopment in Billings. We understand that we have thriving safe neighborhoods and business districts and we have those that are struggling. Smarter people than I can prove through data and history that proper design does make a positive difference to safety and economic vibrancy. In my opinion we can have both, we can respect individual property rights and retain a high level of creativity/flexibility while also having minimum standards that will improve Billings.

Have a great weekend.

DRAFT Agenda

Billings Area Legislators

Tentative date - December 3, 2020

5:30 – 7:00

ZOOM LINK -

- 1) Brief 10 Second Introductions (10 minutes)
- 2) Summarize November 10, 2020 Meeting (5 minutes)
 - a. Highlighted City Priorities
 - b. Agreed to follow-up on Criminal Justice Issues
- 3) Parolee's & Early Release impacts on Billings
 - a. Rates of Recidivism
 - b. Costs to Billings
 - c. Solutions
- 4) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) - Officer Involved Shooting Investigations
 - a. Resources needed
 - b. Cost estimate
- 5) Jail Issues
 - a. Over 100 inmates in YC belong to the Feds or State
 - b. MT pays ~\$70/night?
 - c. An inmate costs YC ~\$105/night?
- 6) Other Issues
 - a. Recreational Marijuana cost impacts (health, addiction, criminal justice) – I agree generally with Senator Diane Sands approach Missoula
 - b. 12 month probation for new hires
 - c. Transportation funding
 - d. Public Intoxication/vagrancy
 - e. Shop Lifting
- 7) Schedule next meeting
- 8) Adjourn at 7:00 pm