

# West Richland Police Department

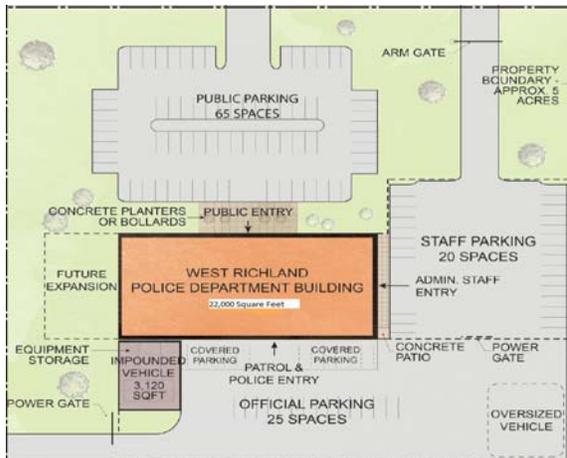


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 20, 2019  
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## West Richland Police to Hold Town Hall Meetings on Proposed Facility



*Site plan for proposed police facility.*



*Artist rendering of building front.*

West Richland, Wash. – The West Richland Police Department is holding three Town Hall meetings to answer questions about a proposal to build a larger, secure police facility. The city is asking voters to consider a bond during the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Election to build the facility.

The meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- March 25, 2019 – Enterprise Middle School, 5200 Paradise Dr. – 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- March 28, 2019 – West Richland Municipal Services Facility, 3100 Belmont Blvd. – 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- April 3, 2019 – West Richland Municipal Services Facility – 3100 Belmont Blvd. – 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Twenty years ago, former Police Chief Mike Noski called the current facility inadequate. Since that time, population in the City of West Richland has grown 115 percent and police are still operating in the same space.

“We outgrew the existing facility years ago, but we made do,” said Police Chief Ben Majetich. “But now, policing has gotten harder. An adequate facility is just as important as officers and patrol cars. Our current facility does not support best policing practices or accreditation standards.”

The proposed facility would provide more space for personnel, and secure areas for interviewing suspects, evidence storage and an armory. It also would provide space for officer training, community meetings and an improved kennel for animal control. The cost is similar to other police facilities and includes land acquisition, design, construction, and outfitting the interior.

The West Richland City Council has placed a bond to finance the facility on the April 23, 2019 Special Election ballot. The cost is estimated at \$42 per \$100,000 of assessed property value or approximately \$3.50 per month.

Election ballots will be mailed on April 5 and are due back to the county by April 23. Voters can mail their ballot or place them in two secure ballot drop box locations. One is at the current police station (3805 Van Giesen Street), and the other is at the Municipal Services Building (3100 Belmont Boulevard) in West Richland.

More information about the proposed facility can be found on the city's web site at [www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org). Police Chief Ben Majetich also welcomes questions or comments at (509) 967-3425 or [bmajetich@westrichland.org](mailto:bmajetich@westrichland.org).

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*The West Richland Police Department serves 15,300 people in the City of West Richland. The mission of the West Richland Police Department is to prevent crime, maintain public safety levels and provide an immediate response when you need us. This community-based policing philosophy has maintained a low crime rate for the city making West Richland one of the top 20 safest communities in Washington and voted the best place to raise a family in 2017.*