



## **INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Community Services & Safety Committee**

**FROM: Aaron BeMiller, Finance Director, Eric Drever, Police Chief**

**CC: Thomas McLeod, Mayor & Marty Wine, City Administrator**

**DATE: November 10, 2025**

**SUBJECT: HB 2015 – Public Safety Sales Tax**

### **ISSUE**

Whether to apply for a grant administered by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) and approve a Sales Tax increase of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) provided to local governments in House Bill 2015. House Bill 2015 aims to enhance public safety with resources to support law enforcement and criminal justice activities. The incremental cost of this new sales tax is ten cents (\$0.10) on a one-hundred dollar (\$100) purchase.

### **BACKGROUND**

Beginning July 27, 2025, Cities and Counties may impose a new 0.1% sales and use tax dedicated to criminal justice purposes. The legislation sets up two processes for cities and counties to obtain funds for co-response, new officer hires, and other public safety purposes:

- Grant program: One is a state-funded grant administered by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC). To be eligible, cities must meet a series of requirements; and
- Councilmanic sales tax: The second is a new 0.1% sales and use tax that cities or counties can levy without going to voters to fund broadly defined criminal justice purposes, provided they meet eligibility criteria.

The two funding mechanisms are structurally linked. To collect the sales tax, a jurisdiction must meet the requirements of the grant application. The total amount of grant funding potentially available to jurisdictions statewide is not set in the legislation. However, the grant program created in the bill has been funded at \$100 million in the 2025 – 2027 operating budget. The grants can be used for hiring corrections officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response, as well as training on use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and broader public safety work.

For hiring new officers, the funding works as follows:

- Up to 75% for salaries and benefits for newly hired law enforcement officers; and
- Up to a maximum of \$125,000 per position; and
- Up to three years.

The legislation instructs CJTC to give highest priority to grant applications from agencies seeking to use the grants to pay for co-response teams, followed by those from agencies that already have co-response and are seeking to hire more law enforcement. The grant program expires on June 30, 2028.

### **Grant Eligibility:**

To be eligible for a grant, a law enforcement agency must have:

- Established policies that comply with state law as well as the Attorney General's guidance for law enforcement practices related to citizenship status;
- Participated in CJTC trainings related to behavioral health and first aid;
- Established policies on de-escalation and use of force that incorporate the Attorney General's guidance on duty to intervene and use of police dogs;
- Complied with state laws on use of force data reporting;
- Established policies related to civil protection orders and the court-ordered surrender of firearms;
- At least 25% of officers who have completed CJTC 40-hour crisis intervention team training;
- 100% completion by required officers for CJTC trainings on sexual assault and gender-based violence;
- Received funds from or authorized a public safety or criminal justice sales tax;
- A police chief, sheriff, or marshal who is CJTC-certified and has no felony convictions or gross misdemeanor convictions for moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption; and
- Established policies for supervising agency volunteers, for any insignia worn by volunteers, and for restricting those volunteers from enforcing criminal laws other than for special event traffic and parking, using force, carrying weapons, or using dogs for purposes besides search and rescue.

Grant applicants must also submit to the CJTC:

- Detailed agency staffing reports and plans including co-response teams, administrative staff, specially commissioned officers, and officers on flexible schedules; and
- Average rates for the preceding year for 911 responses and case closures.

### **Imposing the new Sales Tax:**

To impose the new 0.1% Public Safety sales tax, a city or county must:

- Not have had voters reject (or repeal through referendum) sales taxes for public safety under RCW within the previous 12 months;
- Comply with the requirements for the CJTC grant program the bill creates and submit documentation of compliance to CJTC;
- Enact the tax through councilmanic action by June 30, 2028, or obtain voter approval at a primary or general election after that date; and
- Spend the revenues for criminal justice purposes, and report this spending to AWC or the Washington State Association of Counties.

The funding from the new sales tax can be used for a broad range of programs and services that support public safety including:

- Law enforcement staffing and training,
- Court services,
- Mental and behavioral health crisis response and co-response teams,
- Homelessness reduction,
- Diversion and reentry programs,
- Domestic violence and victim service,
- Emergency Management,
- Public defense.

**DISCUSSION**

Public safety and criminal justice functions make up a plurality of City General Fund expenses, providing a wide range of eligible uses for this revenue. The 2025 budget includes \$34.4 million in qualifying expenses related to the sales tax, as shown below.

<b>2025 Public Safety / Criminal Justice Expenditures</b>	
Police Department - All	28,411,330
Municipal Court - All	2,329,525
Justice Center General Fund Debt Service	590,021
Fleet Leases (General Fund Non-Departmental)	
Police Department	937,736
Emergency Management	22,713
Mayor's Office	
Emergency Management	486,091
Public Defense	444,500
Prosecution (part of Attorney Services)	192,000
PD-Specific Tech Upgrades (TIS)	77,700
Civil Service Testing for Police (HR)	15,000
South King County Housing & Homelessness Partners Payments	
Community Services & Engagement	115,000
Department of Community Development	11,407
Parks-Specific Safety (Park Maintenance)	734,894
<b>Total Identifiable Public Safety/Criminal Justice Expenditures</b>	<b>\$34,367,918</b>

Prior to 2008, sales tax was distributed on an origin-based model. Under this sales tax model, sales tax was distributed to the city from where the goods were shipped. This means that Tukwila industrial and warehousing activities provided the city with sufficient tax revenue to support essential public services. Beginning in 2008, the state changed to a destination-based sales tax distribution model. Under this model, sales tax is distributed to the city where the goods are taken into possession.

This distribution model change resulted in a significant loss of sales tax revenue, estimated to be in excess of \$3 million in 2025. In 2009, in order to help alleviate the loss of this tax revenue, the State began issuing mitigation payments annually to government entities that were negatively impacted by the distribution model change. The State's mitigation payments amounts have decreased over the years, and final payment will be made in 2026.

Since 2008, the costs of providing the essential public safety services demanded by the Tukwila community have significantly increased.

Budget Category	2008 Budget	2025 Budget	Nominal Growth	Inflation-Adjusted Growth
Police	\$12,553,000	\$28,411,000	126%	53%
Court	\$921,000	\$2,330,000	153%	71%
Public Defense	\$151,000	\$430,000	185%	93%
Property Tax	\$11,145,000	\$11,999,000	8%	-27%

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Sales Tax	\$13,225,000	\$23,448,000	77%	20%
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Department	2008 Budget	2025 Budget	Change
Municipal Court	9.25	11.9	+2.65
Police	84	100	+16

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The grant amount is unknown at this time. The estimate for annual sales tax collections is roughly \$2.8 million. If approved, the state would start imposing the sales tax on 4/1/2026. The estimate for collections in 2026 is \$2.1 million.

This funding *is not* included in the 2026 mid-biennium adjustment proposed by the Mayor.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve forwarding this item to the Committee of the Whole meeting on 11/24/2025.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

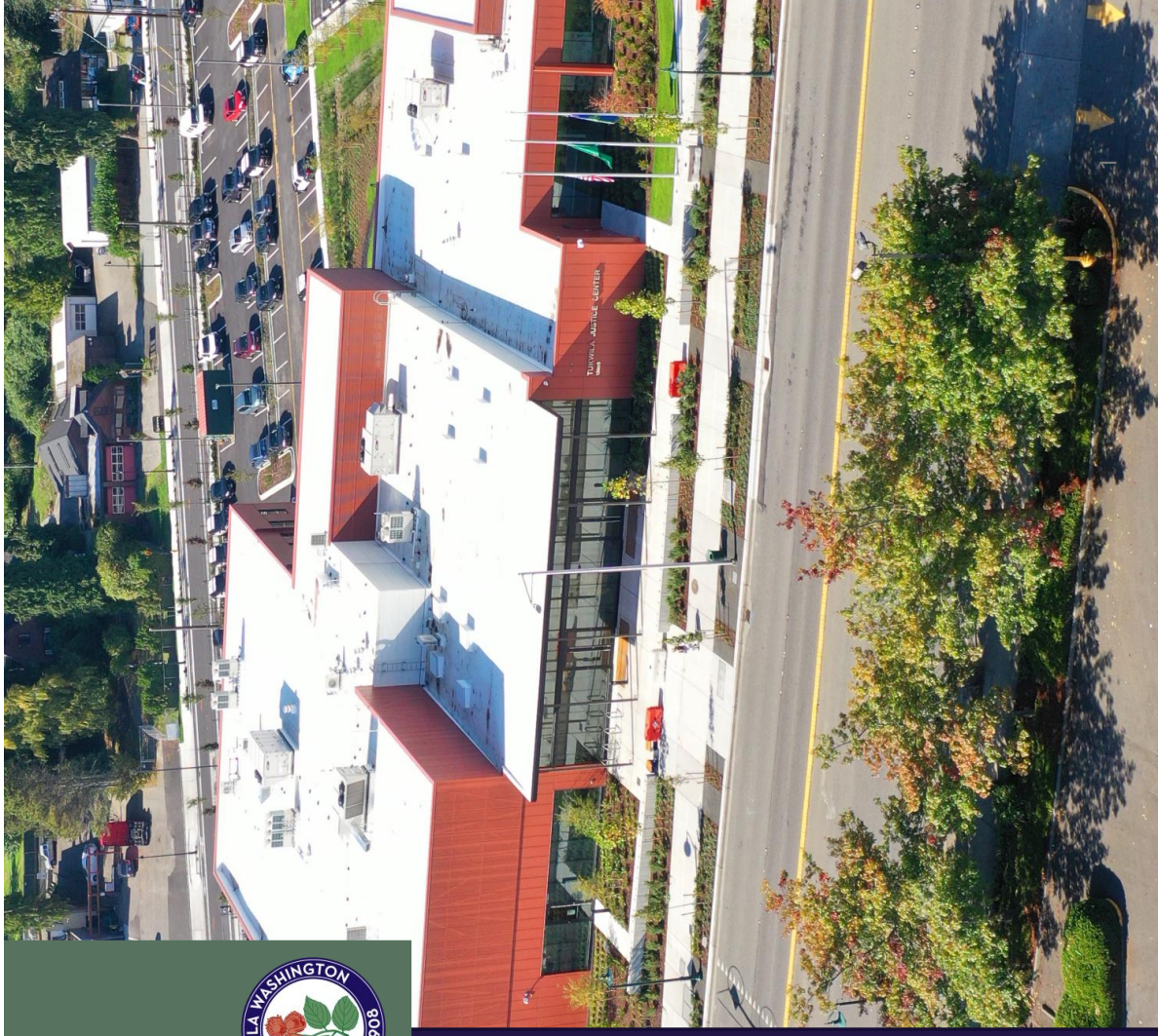
Presentation

Ordinance

# House Bill 2015:

## Criminal Justice Sales Tax and Grants

### November 10, 2025



# Overview

- **Authorized by:** Washington State House Bill 2015 (HB2015)
- **Purpose:** Provide more sustainable local funding for criminal justice services and facilities, recognizing that state policy prevents revenues from increasing with inflation
- **Mechanism:** New local sales tax of 0.1% (\$0.10 per \$100), with \$100 million of state-provided grants 2026-2028
- **Eligible Jurisdictions:** Cities or counties
- **Adoption Method:**
  - Is imposed by Council/legislative action prior to 6/30/2028
  - After that date, voter approval is required (but grant program will have already ended)
- **Use of Revenue:** Dedicated to criminal justice purposes, as defined in RCW

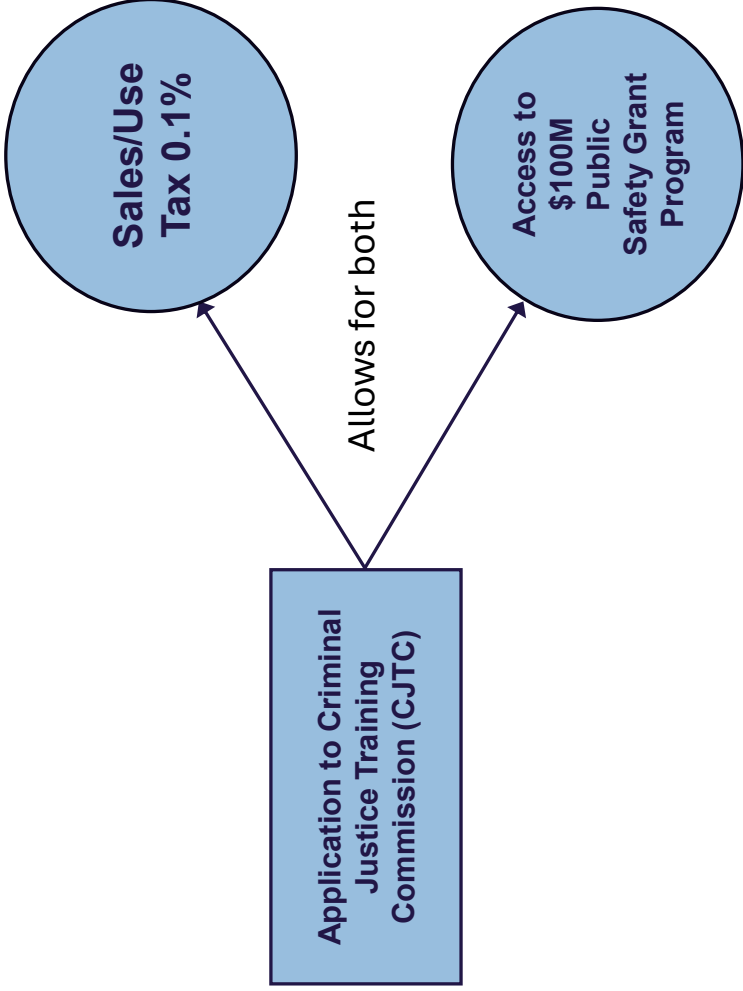




# Application Overview



- HB2015 provides two new sources of revenue: a 0.10% sales/use tax and access to a new grant.
- Prior to implementing the tax or the grant, the city must submit an application that proves it is in compliance with a set of standards set by the Attorney General’s Office (AGO).



# Application Overview (Continued)

- Cities/Counties must meet qualifications set by the Attorney General's Office and reviewed by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC).
- The sales/use tax may be adopted by council vote after application submission (before approval).
- CJTC reviews applications within 45 days, either approving or requesting more information.
- Jurisdictions have 30 days to ask questions and 180 days to reach full compliance before penalties apply.





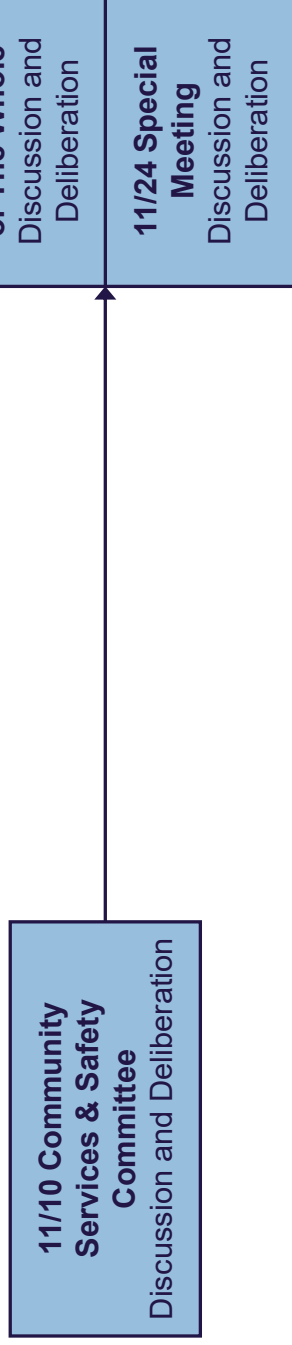
# Application, Sales Tax, and Grants

- For both the sales tax and the grant, the applicant must meet all stipulations set forth by HB2015.
- Both programs are designed to fund public safety efforts.
- The application is the gateway to both the tax and the grant.
- Tax estimate \$2.8 million annually
- Timing:
  - Application portal opened late October
  - Tax can be imposed upon application submission and a councilmanic vote
  - The grant program will be further defined and open for applications at a later date



# Tukwila Process Map

## Council



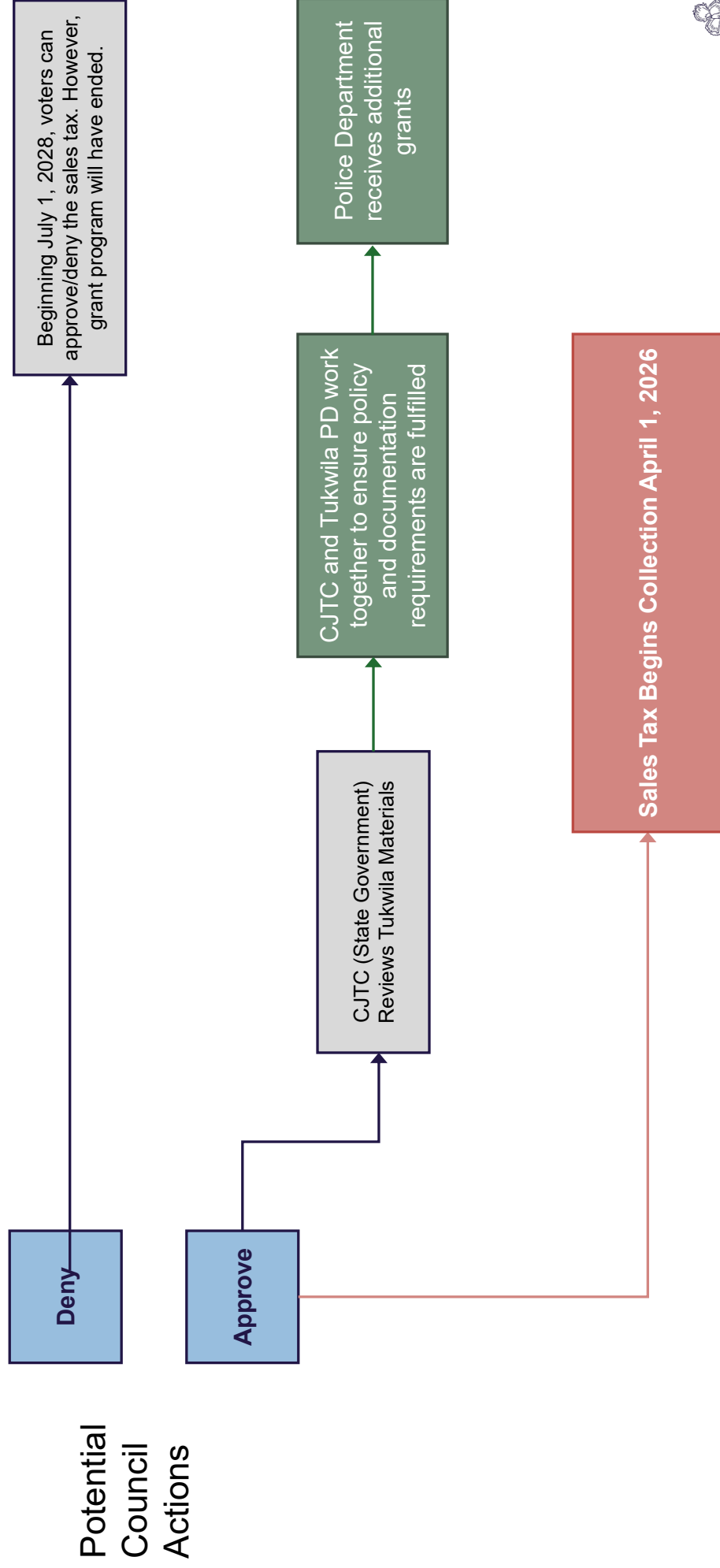
## Police



## Finance



# Tukwila Process Map (Continued)



# Other Municipalities

- Cities and Counties throughout the state are already moving forward to enact this new revenue mechanism. These municipalities include, but are not limited to:

Municipality	Date of Legislative Approval
King County	July 22, 2025
City of Seattle	October 14, 2025
City of Renton	October 6, 2025
City of Kent	September 16, 2025
City of SeaTac	September 23, 2025
City of Des Moines	October 9, 2025
City of Edmonds	August 9, 2025
City of Bellingham	October 6, 2025
Clark County	August 5, 2025

# Recommendation

- Move the Criminal Justice Sales Tax forward to Committee of the Whole on November 24
- Approve the sales tax for implementation on April 1, 2026



## **DRAFT**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON, IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (\$0.1%), AS AUTHORIZED BY LAWS OF 2025, CH. 350 § 201, PURSUANT TO RCW 82.14.345, FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSES; ESTABLISHING A NEW TUKWILA MUNICIPAL CODE (TMC) CHAPTER 3.17, "ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE"; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, the Washington State Legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2015 (Laws of 2025, Ch. 350), codified in part at RCW 82.14.345, which authorized qualified cities to impose by ordinance a new local option sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for criminal justice purposes. The cost of this new local sales and use tax on a \$100 purchase is \$0.10; and

**WHEREAS**, a city is qualified to impose the new local option sales and use tax only if the city meets the eligibility requirements to receive a grant from the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program created through ESHB 2015. The City of Tukwila meets these qualification requirements and, as such, the Tukwila Police Department submitted its substantiating documentation to the Criminal Justice Training Commission demonstrating its qualifications (See, Laws of 2025, Ch. 350 § 201(1)(c), codified at RCW 82.14.345(1)(c)-(d) and RCW 43.101.540); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tukwila is located in the heart of the Puget Sound region, approximately 12 miles south of downtown Seattle, 17 miles north of Tacoma and just east of the Seattle-Tacoma International airport. Tukwila has a current population of 22,930 residents and more than 2,000 businesses that comprise over 40,000 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the Washington State Legislature changed the method it used to distribute sales tax revenue to cities to a destination-based model, where taxes are distributed to cities based on the receipt (or purchase) of goods manufactured and stored in other cities. Instead of Tukwila receiving from the State a portion of the sales tax assessed for goods that are sold and shipped from the City of Tukwila, since 2008, Tukwila has only received a portion of the sales tax assessed for goods that are delivered in the City of

Tukwila. In 2008-2009, the state provided Tukwila with payments in amounts approximating the lost revenue due to this policy change, which totaled \$1,495,833 in 2009 dollars, which is equivalent to \$2,243,906 of annual lost revenue in inflation-adjusted 2025 dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2008 to 2024, the State of Washington provided steadily declining payments to the City of Tukwila to mitigate the negative effects of this policy change. In 2024, the final sales tax mitigation payment was provided to Tukwila in the amount of \$141,216, and sales tax mitigation payments ceased to the City of Tukwila; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tukwila has continually prioritized investments in public safety. As of 2024, the City's Police Department is fully staffed. In the most recent 5-year period (2021-2026), the Tukwila Police Department expenditures increased \$11.8 million (65%), growing from \$17.9 million in 2021 (actual expenditures) to \$29.7 million budgeted in 2026. Over this same time period, the Police Department added 13 vehicles to its fleet, growing from 88 to 101; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tukwila Municipal Court has earned multiple statewide awards and recognitions for its leadership and innovative justice programs, including affordable domestic violence therapy classes (DV MRT), a cost-effective and efficient interpreter scheduling system, City Council Conference Room, the Unified Payment (UP) Program, and the development of the curriculum for the Washington State Misdemeanor Probation Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, the court offers a wide range of outreach initiatives such as civics education for all ages, mock trials for students, internship opportunities, health and justice clinics, and an onsite resource center, demonstrating its strong commitment to community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, in the most recent 5-year period (2021-2026), the Tukwila Municipal Court budget increased \$1.2 million (50%), growing from \$1.2 million in 2021 (actual expenditures) to \$2.4 million budgeted in 2026. The court is currently in the middle of implementing succession planning to ensure effective operations when key staff turnover in the coming years; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tukwila will face significant additional public defense costs and resource needs to respond to caseload limits imposed by State Supreme Court Order 25700-A-1644 beginning in January 2026, representing a significant new mandate on the local justice system in which cities must either find a way to recruit and pay for indigent defense services while case filings continue to increase or determine how to prosecute fewer offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, revenues generated from the state-authorized sales tax will be dedicated to providing criminal justice services, including police operations, court services, and public safety programs, in accordance with RCW 82.14.345; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tukwila Police Department and the Tukwila Community would be greatly served by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) grants that are being



made available through the state, conditional on this ordinance being adopted. The State has currently allocated \$100 million in public safety funding for award to local governments that adopt this new local option sales and use tax;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Adoption of Findings of Fact.** The City Council hereby adopts the foregoing recitals and incorporates them herein as support for this ordinance establishing a new local option sales and use tax.

**Section 2. TMC Chapter 3.17 Established.** Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 3.17, entitled “Enhanced Criminal Justice Sales & Use Tax,” is hereby established to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 3.17**  
**ENHANCED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SALES & USE TAX**

<u>Sections:</u>	
<u>3.17.010</u>	<u>Tax Imposed &amp; Applicability</u>
<u>3.17.020</u>	<u>Local Law Enforcement Eligibility Criteria</u>
<u>3.17.030</u>	<u>Administration and Collection</u>
<u>3.17.040</u>	<u>Allowable Uses of Tax Receipts</u>
<u>3.17.050</u>	<u>Violation and Penalty</u>
<u>3.17.060</u>	<u>Annual Reporting</u>

**Section 3. Regulations Established.** A new TMC Section 3.17.010 is hereby established to read as follows:

**3.17.010 Tax Imposed & Applicability**

Effective April 1, 2026, an additional one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) sales and use tax, as authorized by Section 201, Chapter 350, Laws of Washington 2025, as codified in part at RCW 82.14.345, is hereby levied, fixed, and imposed on all taxable events within the City of Tukwila as defined in chapter 82.08, 82.12, or 82.14 RCW. The tax shall be imposed upon and collected from those persons from whom sales tax or use tax is collected in accordance with chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW, and shall be collected at the rate of one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. The additional sales and use tax shall be in addition to all other existing sales and use taxes currently imposed by the City of Tukwila. The revenue generated through imposition of this additional sales and use tax shall be dedicated and used by the City to fund its continued commitment to sufficiently funding public safety and criminal justice.

**Section 4. Regulations Established.** A new TMC Section 3.17.020 is hereby established to read as follows:

**3.17.020 Local Law Enforcement Eligibility Criteria**

A. The City may impose the tax authorized under this Chapter only if the City meets the requirements to receive a grant from the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program created within Laws of 2025, Ch. 350 § 101, and codified at RCW 43.101.540, having:

1. Issued and implemented policies and practices consistent with RCW 43.17.425 and RCW 10.93.160, and the Office of the Attorney General's Keep Washington Working Act guide, model policies, and training recommendations for state and local law enforcement agencies;

2. Participated in trainings of the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission as required by RCW 43.101.455 and RCW 36.28A.445;

3. Issued and implemented policies and practices regarding use of force and de-escalation tactics consistent with RCW 10.120.030 and the state Office of the Attorney General's model policies, and all other model policies of the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission and the state Attorney General's Office regarding use of force for law enforcement, including, but not limited to, duty to intervene and training and use of canine teams;

4. Implemented use of force data collection and reporting consistent with chapters 10.118 and 10.120 RCW when the program is operational, as confirmed by a notice from the state Office of the Attorney General to all police chiefs and sheriffs;

5. Issued and implemented policies and practices consistent with chapters 7.105 and 9.41 RCW, and model policies and training of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission addressing firearm relinquishment pursuant to court orders;

6. A 25 percent officer completion rate of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission's 40-hour crisis intervention team training;

7. A 100 percent officer compliance rate for those officers required to complete trauma-informed, gender-based violence interviewing, investigation, response, and case review training developed or approved by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.272 and 43.101.276, and if requested by the commission, participated in agency case reviews;

8. Received funding from a sales and use tax authorized pursuant to RCW 82.14.340;

9. A chief of police who is certified by the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission, and who has not been convicted of a felony anywhere in the United States or under foreign law, or been convicted of a gross misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption; and

10. Issued and implemented policies and practices that prohibit volunteers who assist with agency work from enforcing criminal laws, other than for assistance with special event traffic and parking, including engaging in pursuits, detention, arrests, the use of force, or the use of deadly force; carrying or the use of firearms or other weapons; or the use of dogs to track people or animals other than for purposes of search and rescue; and that set forth the required supervision of volunteers, including that they must be clearly identifiable

by the public as distinguishable from peace officers and any identifying insignia must be officially issued by the agency and only used when on duty.

11. Submitted documentation to the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission substantiating the City of Tukwila's qualification for imposition of the additional sales and use tax imposed under this section, including with that submittal the following additional information required under Law of 2025, Ch. 350 § Sec. 101(5), and codified at RCW 43.101.540(5):

(a) The total number of commissioned officers currently employed with the City of Tukwila Police Department;

(b) The total number of specially commissioned officers currently employed with the City of Tukwila Police Department;

(c) The total number of co-response teams established within the City of Tukwila and what staffing are included in each co-response team;

(d) The total number of administrative staff currently employed with the City of Tukwila Police Department;

(e) The number of officers on flexible work schedules within the City of Tukwila Police Department;

(f) The average 911 response rate of the City of Tukwila Police Department over the 12-month period immediately preceding the month in which the City of Tukwila submitted documentation to the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission; and

(g) The average case closure rate of the City of Tukwila Police Department over the 12-month period immediately preceding the month in which the City of Tukwila submitted documentation to the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

**Section 5. Regulations Established.** A new TMC Section 3.17.030 is hereby established to read as follows:

### **3.17.030 Administration and Collection**

The administration and collection of the tax imposed by this chapter shall be in accordance with the provisions of RCW 82.14.050, as currently enacted or hereafter amended.

**Section 6. Regulations Established.** A new TMC Section 3.17.040 is hereby established to read as follows:

### **3.17.040 Allowable Uses of Tax Receipt**

Moneys received by the City from the tax imposed under this chapter must be expended for criminal justice purposes. As used in this chapter, "criminal justice purposes" means activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include

circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice behavioral health system occurs, and which includes:

(a) Domestic violence services, such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates, as those terms are defined in RCW- 70.123.020;

(b) Staffing adequate public defenders to provide appropriate defense for individuals;

(c) Diversion programs;

(d) Reentry work for inmates;

(e) Local government programs that have a reasonable relationship to reducing the numbers of people interacting with the criminal justice system including, but not limited to, reducing homelessness or improving behavioral health;

(f) Community placements for juvenile offenders; and

(g) Community outreach and assistance programs, alternative response programs, and mental health crisis response including, but not limited to, the recovery navigator program.

**Section 7. Regulations Established.** A new TMC Section 3.17.050 is hereby established to read as follows:

### **3.17.050 Violation and Penalty**

Any seller who fails or refuses to collect the tax imposed by this chapter with the intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, whether direct or indirect, and any buyer who refuses to pay any tax due under this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**Section 8. Regulations Established.** A new TMC Section 3.17.060 is hereby established to read as follows:

### **3.17.060 Annual Reporting**

The Finance Director, or their designee, shall within one calendar year of imposition of the tax imposed under this chapter, and annually thereafter, make a report to the Association of Washington Cities on how the moneys received by the City from the tax were expended.

**Section 9. Notice to Department of Revenue.** The City's Finance Director, or their designee, is directed to submit this ordinance to the Department of Revenue and take all steps necessary to implement and collect the tax imposed by this ~~Ordinance~~ ordinance.

**Section 10. Corrections by City Clerk or Code Reviser Authorized.** Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the code reviser are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including the correction of clerical errors; references to other local, state or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations; or ordinance numbering and section/subsection numbering.

**Section 11. Severability.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance or its application to any person or situation should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to any other person or situation.

**Section 12. Effective Date.** This ordinance or a summary thereof shall be published in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect and be in full force five days after passage and publication as provided by law. Pursuant to Section 3, above, the tax imposed by this ordinance shall take effect on April 1, 2026, which is more than 75 days after the City notified the Department of Revenue of this change consistent with RCW 82.14.055(1).

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON,  
at a Regular Meeting thereof this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Youn-Barnett, CMC, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas McLeod, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY:

Filed with the City Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Passed by the City Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Published: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney