

RESOLUTION NO. 630

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON, REQUESTING THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT THE LARCH CORRECTIONS CENTER.

WHEREAS, Larch Corrections Center (LCC) is slated to be closed by the Department of Corrections in October, 2023; and

WHEREAS, LCC provides valuable education, retraining opportunities and community partnerships for inmates that reduce the recidivism rate of the inmates and provides valuable service to our community; and

WHEREAS, LCC inmate work crews play a vital regional role in trail maintenance, vegetation control, and wildfire fighting; and

WHEREAS, LCC inmate work crews play a vital local role in Ridgefield, providing almost 11,000 hours since 2018 assisting with roadside garbage pick-up, park/trail/roadway vegetation management, and storm facility and raingarden maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Ridgefield have greatly benefited from work that couldn't be done by City Public Works crews alone and saved \$434,880 due to the assistance of LCC work crews; and

WHEREAS, LCC inmates have benefited from the opportunity to work in and positively enhance communities in the region they are from, as part of a retraining and education program which has greatly decreased recidivism.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Ridgefield, Washington as follows:

Section 1. The City Council recognizes the vital role that LCC work crews play regionally and locally, aiding in park, trail, storm pond, and right of way maintenance. The City Council strongly urges the Department of Corrections to reverse the decision to close Larch Correctional Facility.

Section 2. The Clerk of the City of Ridgefield is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the offices of the Washington State Department of Corrections, the Governor, and other such offices as applicable.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by City Council.

DONE IN OPEN MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON HELD THIS 24TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

Approved:

Jennifer Lindsay, Mayor

Attest:

Julie Ferriss, City Clerk