

# Detention Center Moratorium Ordinance

Bellevue City Council

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June 9, 2026



# Action for Council Consideration

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- Consider adoption of an emergency moratorium ordinance on detention centers in the City of Bellevue.
- Establish a work plan to study and evaluate updates to zoning and land use controls regulating detention center uses in the City.



# Agenda



Background & Context



Proposed Moratorium



Proposed DSD Work Plan



Process Summary



Action



# Background:

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- The Growth Management Act and RCW 35A.63.220 authorize cities to adopt moratoria, provided a public hearing is held within 60 days of adoption.
- The establishment and expansion of detention centers have increased nationwide, including in the Puget Sound region.
- Several jurisdictions in the region have recently adopted moratoria on detention centers and related detention facility uses.



# Land Use Context:

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- The City's current zoning and Land Use Code do not regulate detention centers as a distinct land use with unique impacts.
- Without specific zoning and land use regulations, detention centers could adversely affect surrounding land uses, transportation, and the environment, as well as the health, safety, and welfare of City of Bellevue residents.
- The proposed moratorium would allow the City time to evaluate and develop zoning and land use regulations to address and mitigate these potential impacts.



# Proposed Moratorium:

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- Pauses acceptance and processing of applications for the establishment, expansion, or development of detention centers for 1 year.
- Declares an emergency, allowing the moratorium to take effect immediately to prevent potential harm associated with unregulated, or insufficiently regulated, detention center uses.
- Includes a legislative work plan to review, study, and potentially revise City zoning and land use controls while the moratorium remains in effect.



# Proposed Development Services Work Plan:

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- Identify gaps in current zoning, land use districts, development regulations, and permitting processes.
- Evaluate whether potential amendments can be incorporated into existing or planned Council legislative work programs.
- Develop findings and recommendations for Council consideration.
- Integrate the proposed work plan and schedule into existing or anticipated code and policy initiatives.



# Moratorium & Work Plan Schedule

**June 9, 2026:**  
Adopt Moratorium Ordinance

**Work Plan:**  
Study & evaluate gaps and LUCAs for Council to consider

**Before August 7, 2026:**  
Public Hearing on Moratorium

**June 9, 2027:**  
Expiration of initial 1-year moratorium term

## Summary:

- **6/9/26:** Council adoption of moratorium ordinance.
- **By 8/7/26:** Public hearing within 60 days of adoption.
- **6/9/27:** Expiration of initial 1-year term, with findings and recommendations for Council consideration.



# Action for Council Consideration

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