



SHERIFF

WASHINGTON COUNTY

CONSERVING THE PEACE THROUGH VALUES DRIVEN SERVICE | SHERIFF CAPRICE MASSEY

February 13, 2026

Honorable Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Cornelius Recreation and Community Center Project Funding Request

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of the City of Cornelius' request for Capital Construction Lottery Bond funding for the Cornelius Recreation and Community Center. This project is vital not only as a hub for community programs but as a designated emergency shelter – a critical need for a city that has grown nearly 20% in recent years.

Currently, Cornelius has no facility large enough or equipped to provide shelter during a disaster. The City has taken proactive steps by adopting a new Emergency Operations Plan and conducting training exercises. However, without a suitable building, these efforts cannot fully protect residents. Renovating this facility with emergency backup power and other resiliency features will ensure that, in times of crisis, people have a safe and reliable place to go.

Beyond emergency preparedness, this center will strengthen community connections and provide space for recreation and engagement – benefits that improve quality of life every day. For one of the region's most vulnerable communities, this investment is about safety, resilience, and opportunity.

Thank you for considering this important request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caprice Massey".

Caprice Massey
Washington County Sheriff