

# Partnership.

***THE COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE & THE CITY OF LA CENTER***



# History

- ▶ *City of La Center relied heavily on Gambling Taxes for revenue*
- ▶ *Lawsuits from Vancouver, Clark County, The La Center Cardrooms and the group “Citizens Against Reservation Shopping”*
- ▶ *Alienated from our neighbors with very little conversations and no partnership*



# New Relationship

- ▶ *There is new leadership in La Center & at The Cowlitz Tribal Council*
- ▶ *A new partnership is being formed*
- ▶ *Multiple meetings involving members of the city staff and Council*



# Around The Community

- ▶ In 2022 Cowlitz Tribal Foundation donated \$190,000 to La Center Schools
- ▶ Northwest Battle Buddies \$450,000.00 to support the training of eighteen battle buddies that will be gifted to our veterans experiencing PTSD
- ▶ In May 2023, our unrestricted funds allowed The Cowlitz Tribal Foundation to donate \$550,000.00 to 38 food pantries in Clark County to help address SNAP reduction benefits
- ▶ Boys and Girls Club Southwest Washington 1 million Dollar Grant to support staff and development
- ▶ WSU Vancouver 1 million Dollar Grant to support the building of a new academic building

# Interlocal Agreement

- ▶ The Tribe has purchased two parcels east of the freeway
- ▶ The United States Government has discretionary authority to take land into trust on behalf of a tribe
- ▶ The new IGA consists of doubling our sales tax rate



# Letter Of Support

- ▶ For the two parcels already purchased
- ▶ Gets the clock started
- ▶ City of La Center supports stronger ties with the Cowlitz Tribe
- ▶ Builds trust

*I recommend the council approves signing the letter of support for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe*

