

COVER MEMO

Briefing Date/Time: March 23, 2026

Staff Contact/Title: Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, miker@portolympia.com

Subject: Foreign-Trade Zone 216 Briefing

Purpose: Information Only Decision Needed

Type of Agenda Item:

Briefing, for information only.

Overview:

This presentation will provide a foundational overview of Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZs) with a focus on FTZ #216, which is administered by the Port of Olympia. It outlines the purpose and history of the FTZ program, key operational advantages to businesses—including duty deferral, reduction, and elimination—and describes the zone’s structure, designated jurisdictions, and current users. The presentation also highlights recent activity, financial status, and opportunities for expanding utilization of FTZ #216 as an economic development tool to attract trade-related investment and enhance the Port’s competitiveness in the regional logistics market.

Background:

The Port of Olympia established the FTZ 216 in 1994 and has been the Grantee of this federal program ever since. FTZ #216 is a multi-county designation that covers all of Thurston County and portions of Lewis, Mason, and Kitsap County. Current active users of the foreign trade zone are Callison Mint, Michaels, All Season Power, and Essex Laboratories.

Documents Attached:

PowerPoint Presentation