



Whatcom County Public Defender's Office

We listen. We care. We fight.

Starck Follis, Director

Maialisa Vanyo, Chief Deputy

Thomas Fryer, Assistant Chief Deputy

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Date: July 1st, 2026

To: Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

Whatcom County Council Members

From: Julie Wiles, Office Administrator, Public Defender's Office

RE: Contract regarding Office of Public Defense Chapter 10.101 RCW funding for use in fiscal 2027

Background and Purpose:

I have enclosed two originals of a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Office of Public Defense (OPD) for your review and approval. The revenue provided by this grant is \$435,994.96 and the purpose of this funding is to improve public defense. Funding for this purpose has been provided through similar grant agreements with OPD since 2006. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Finance Department have both approved and signed the contract information sheet. Council approval is required pursuant to Whatcom County Code 3.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000 and RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Once you and the County Council have approved, presuming everything is in proper form, I'll mail it to the Office of Public Defense for their signature. Please let me know if you need any further information or if you have any questions. Thank you.