

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTING A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO DOING BUSINESS IN WHATCOM COUNTY DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has required extraordinary measures to protect public health; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County has adopted a comprehensive health plan that puts families and children first; and

**WHEREAS**, economic hardship has been proven to be a major stressor to the health of families. These hardships have been universally linked to an increase in domestic violence, food insecurity, housing insecurity, declines in mental health, increases in family stress, an increase in suicide and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Whatcom County have proven that mitigation factors are effective in slowing the spread of COVID 19 to a manageable level; and

**WHEREAS**, Mitigation factors include but are not limited to; social distancing, mask wearing, frequent hand washing, physical barriers at check out, mindfulness in the presence of others, keeping high risk individuals at home, and an increased sense of personal responsibility and awareness in regards to the spread of disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Lowes, Home Depot, Target, Walmart, Costco and others have been open, and successfully implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of COVID 19 while operating their business and providing goods and services; and

**WHEREAS**, government construction projects including the Birch Bay berm and the Thornton Road overpass project amongst others are allowed to continue safely.

**FINDINGS:** the negative health effects and possible loss of life, from the economic hardships that COVID 19 has created possibly outpace those caused by the virus itself. Learning from our own experience, that slowing the spread of COVID 19 does not have to come at the expense of our local businesses and to avoid the appearance of Whatcom County government picking winners and losers and striving to provide a framework where everyone is afforded a level playing field.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that to further protect the health and wellbeing of children and families, any business that offers like goods and services to the above-mentioned big box stores, or any construction projects including residential construction of any kind, that can implement mitigation factors such as the above-mentioned businesses, shall be able to operate during the Governor and Executive's COVID-19 related emergency declarations.

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

( ) Approved ( ) Denied

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_