



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director

**RE:** City of Bellingham – Alternative Response Team Pilot Program Contract

**DATE:** April 15, 2022

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Alternative Response Team (ART) pilot program takes a collaborative approach that brings law enforcement, emergency medical response, human services and other community responders together to create individualized plans to minimize the impact of individuals identified as having a very high impact on each of those systems. ART will be deployed by staff based at What-Comm, 10 hours/day, 7 days/week and there will be a dedicated communication channel and work station for ART at the What-Comm call center.

This contract dedicates funding from the City of Bellingham for staffing and implementation of the ART pilot program.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement is provided by the City of Bellingham in an amount not to exceed \$161,917 in 2022 and \$259,210 in 2023. These funds will be included in the 2022 budget. Council approval is required as this award exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager 360-778-6131 ([MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us)) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 ([KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us)), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

