

**Whatcom County  
Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



**Committee Minutes - Final**

ESTIMATED TIME - MEETING MAY BEGIN EARLIER/LATER THAN 2:30 P.M.

**Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

**2:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan

Tyler Byrd

Carol Frazey

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Buchanan called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Barry Buchanan, Carol Frazey and Tyler Byrd

**Absent:** None

Also present: Todd Donovan, Barbara Brenner, and Rud Browne

## **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2019-517](#) Report from District Court

Bruce VanGlubt, District Court Administrator, submitted a handout (on file), and gave an update on staffing and program successes in District Court, the electronic equipment program, and domestic violence treatment for indigent offenders. He answered questions about the electronic equipment program including correlations between costs and use of the program and incarceration costs, population, and duration; removing barriers to getting more people into the program; and a comparison of recidivism rates between the different release programs. He answered questions about domestic violence treatment for indigent offenders including finding state certified agencies in our community that have capacity for treatment.

**This agenda item was REPORTED.**

2. [AB2019-518](#) Report from Superior Court

Dave Reynolds, Superior Court Administrator, gave a presentation about the make-up and function of Superior Court and the Clerk's Office, the types of cases the court deals with, and a new electronic case management system. He answered questions about why the Clerk's Office is part of Superior Court and whether it creates conflicts since the Clerk is a neutral record administrator, and how long it will be until they are able to accept electronic filing of all case types.

**This agenda item was REPORTED.**

## **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2019-530](#) Resolution establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment

Committee Chair Buchanan gave an update and a history of the resolution formation.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered a question about the percentage of jail

bed use and distribution of advisory committee membership from the County, the City of Bellingham, and the small Cities.

Councilmembers discussed the voting member representation of the Cities on the advisory committee, going back to the Cities to see if the membership should be expanded to be more equitable for the all the Cities, having citizens from differing view points on building a new jail on the committee to get a diverse set of opinions on all sides of the issue, and having two separate advisory groups--one that is community based and one that is government based.

**This agenda item was HELD IN COMMITTEE.**

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE