

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND AND ESTABLISHING
A BUDGET FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021 President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law, and

WHEREAS, ARPA is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts, and

WHEREAS, ARPA contains \$362 billion for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County will directly receive \$44,528,542 in two 50% installments, available beginning May 2021 with the balance delivered approximately 12 months later, and

WHEREAS, this funding must be used by December 31, 2024 to support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, replace lost public sector revenue, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the County intends to utilize these funds in 2021 to support the continued efforts of urgent COVID-19 Public Health response efforts, replace lost public sector revenue, and to rebuild and strengthen the County’s vital public services by retaining, rehiring, and hiring for County jobs to sustain and improve the post-pandemic level of service provided to the constituents of Whatcom County, and

WHEREAS, the County also intends to work with the community to provide a long-term framework on how best to utilize this substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, provide economic stabilization and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economy and public health system, and

WHEREAS, a new special revenue fund is necessary to properly account for this restricted revenue source,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures related to funding received in accordance with ARPA, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the fund is approved with an initial budget of \$1,732,850 as presented in attached Exhibit A.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that no additional monies shall be appropriated from this fund without prior approval of the County Council.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Chair of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied

Approved by email/C Quinn/M Caldwell
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: _____