



# Whatcom County

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

## Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2020-598

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|                      |   |                    |                         |                      |              |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>File ID:</b>      | AB2020-598  | <b>Version:</b>    | 1                       | <b>Status:</b>       | Approved     |
| <b>File Created:</b> | 12/08/2020  | <b>Entered by:</b> | DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us |                      |              |
| <b>Department:</b>   | Council Office  | <b>File Type:</b>  | Resolution              |                      |              |
| <b>Assigned to:</b>  | Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee |                    |                         | <b>Final Action:</b> | 01/12/2021   |
| <b>Agenda Date:</b>  | 01/12/2021  |                    |                         | <b>Enactment #:</b>  | RES 2021-001 |

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Primary Contact Email: RBrowne@co.whatcom.wa.us

**TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:**

Resolution reflecting the diversity of the County’s population by improving written accessibility

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:**

Resolution reflecting the diversity of the County’s population by improving written accessibility

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### HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

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| <b>Date:</b> | <b>Acting Body:</b>                                   | <b>Action:</b>           | <b>Sent To:</b>   |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| 12/08/2020   | Council   | INTRODUCED               | Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee           |
|              |   | Aye: 7                   | Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, Elenbaas, and Kershner |
|              |   | Nay: 0                   |   |
|              |   | Absent: 0                |   |
| 01/12/2021   | Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee | RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL |   |
|              |   | Aye: 3                   | Browne, Byrd, and Kershner                                      |
|              |   | Nay: 0                   |   |
|              |   | Absent: 0                |   |
| 01/12/2021   | Council   | APPROVED                 |   |
|              |   | Aye: 6                   | Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Frazey, Kershner, and Donovan           |
|              |   | Nay: 0                   |   |
|              |   | Absent: 0                |   |

Abstain: 1 Elenbaas

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**Attachments:** Proposed Resolution

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001**

**REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION  
BY IMPROVING WRITTEN ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC SPACE SIGNAGE**

**WHEREAS**, the County Council approved a Resolution November 24th 2020  
Affirming Racism is a Public Health Crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has a responsibility to serve all county residents irrespective  
of race, national origin, or disability; and

**WHEREAS**, the exception county has traditionally published most public signage, as  
well as printed and online materials, are limited to the English language; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of public signage and printed and online materials available in  
other languages restricts equal access to public resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the use and accessibility of the original languages used in Whatcom  
County by the original Native American inhabitants has been so severely impacted there is  
an ever-present risk they could be permanently lost; and

**WHEREAS**, there are some low-cost methods to address many of these issues  
immediately.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council requests the  
County Executive integrate "Google Translate" (which currently supports 108 languages) or  
a similar product into County websites wherever possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council requests the County  
Executive replace all navigation and guidance signs on and in county buildings serving the  
public with multilingual signs in the following written languages:


English  
Spanish  
Lummi  
Brail

;and

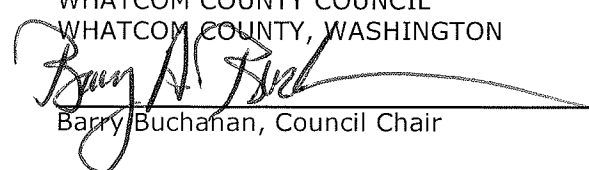
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council requests the County  
Executive investigate options to provide multi-language kiosks be place in the lobby of  
county buildings, serving the public to provide a much more comprehensive list of written  
languages, plus audio access for those that lack sufficient literacy in any written language.

**APPROVED** this 12th day of January, 202021

ATTEST:

  
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Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by Karen Frakes via email

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Civil Deputy Prosecutor