

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**APPROVING THE 2020 RECOMMENDED CONVENTION CENTER  
ALLOCATIONS FOR TOURISM-RELATED FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES  
AS DEFINED THROUGH RCW 67.28.1816**

**WHEREAS** on October 22, 2020, the Whatcom County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) held a virtual public meeting to consider 2021 funding for use of Convention Center Funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee recognized the extraordinary environment shaped from the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in a significant decrease in tax revenue achieved through the Lodging Tax; and

**WHEREAS**, it was recognized that the Chambers and Bellingham Whatcom Tourism continue to provide support and education for safe travel and guidance on business closures and openings; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual call for applications was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the cancellation of a majority of 2020 scheduled events and festivals supported by the Lodging Tax Fund and it was determined a competitive 2021 application process may occur when a more definitive outlook is available for large group gatherings; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee recommended continued funding for the Chambers and Bellingham Whatcom Tourism in the amount of \$527,000 as they work to support our communities striving safely open for tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the LTAC further recommends a 10% contingency in the amount of \$100,000 to be used in the event an eligible tourism promoting activity is brought forward later in the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee recommends funding increased maintenance costs for the Glacier restrooms. This high traffic restroom is used by locals and visitors seeking adventures outdoors. The additional maintenance support in the amount of \$7,500 for a total of \$19,500 annually will ensure twice daily cleaning and grounds keeping in the immediate area, septic tank/field maintenance and inspections and cleaning supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee unanimously agreed to the 2021 funding recommendations totaling \$646,500 which were determined based on the ability to promote and serve tourism activities in Whatcom County as defined in RCW 67.28; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Convention Center Fund revenue is projected at \$610,000 and the 2020 fund balance is projected to be \$2,047,999; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Whatcom County Council hereby authorizes the County Administration to allocate \$646,500 from the Lodging Tax Fund for the purposes of tourism related activities as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and detailed in attachment A.

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

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

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

APPROVED as to form:

Chris Quinn per email 11/30/2020

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Civil Deputy Prosecutor