

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**REQUESTING THE WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE DECOMMISSION sALL
CONTRACTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL AND NORTHWEST YOUTH
SERVICES RELATING TO THE 22 NORTH PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
FACILITY**

WHEREAS, the [Opportunity Council](#) states they provide affordable permanent housing units for income-qualifying applicants located in downtown Bellingham, at 1022 N. State Street; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Council owns and operates the property and services for 22 North Supportive Housing Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Council has stated the goal of the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility is to provide wraparound support, build stability, and opportunity for adults experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Council and Northwest Youth Services provide case management and other support services to homeless individuals and individuals who are 18- to 24-years-old residing at the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2023, the Whatcom County Council authorized [Contract No. 202106006-6](#), which in addition to providing funding for the Opportunity Council's Homeless Outreach Team hires a behavioral health consultant to provide direct service, consulting, and training work for the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2023, the Whatcom County Council authorized [Contract 202207001-6](#) to provide funding for 24/7/265 funding for on-site supportive services, staffing, and training for the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility with additional reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020, the Whatcom County Council authorized [Contract No. 2020009034](#) to fund clinician consultations provided by Northwest Youth Services at the 22 the North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility and coordination with the Opportunity Council's housing team; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024, at least 6 overdoses were reported by the [Bellingham Police Department](#) on N. State St. between 200 BLK N. State St. and 2000 BLK N. State St.; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024, at least 5 death investigations have been reported by the Bellingham Police Department on N. State St. between 200 BLK State St. and 2000 BLK N. State St.; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2022 Kassandra Booker was murdered in the stairwell of 22 North by her drug dealer; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2023 Philip Moitoret died of a meth overdose in unit 508 of 22 North.; and

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2 **WHEREAS**, on October 10, 2023, Michael Swonger died of an overdose in unit 510
3 of 22 North, and he wasn't seen for four days prior to being found dead; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, on November 9, 2023 Brian Owen died of an overdose in unit 510 of 22
6 North, and he wasn't seen for four days prior to being found dead; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, on December 7, 2023 Joanne Ball was found dead in unit 202 of 22
9 North; and
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11 **WHEREAS**, on December 30, 2023, Christine Osthimer overdosed in unit 302 of 22
12 North, and three days later, on January 2, 2024, she was found dead in unit 308, a unit
13 which had been condemned for meth contamination by the Whatcom County Health
14 Department in 2022; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2024, Donald Bering was found with meth foil, covered in
17 feces, and dead in unit 402 of 22 North; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, on May 6, 2024, Jere Boyd was found dead in unit 501 of 22 North after
20 not being seen for 72 hours; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, on October 10, 2023, a person died of an overdose in unit 510 of 22
23 North, and he wasn't seen for four days prior to being found dead; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2022, Desiree Feliciano died outside 22 North; and
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27 **WHEREAS**, on June 2, 2022, Jordan Terry died one block away from 22 North in
28 front of Sophie's Gold Mine and Repair; and
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30 **WHEREAS**, on August 9, 2022, Ward Simmons, Jr. died on the trail behind 22
31 North; and
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33 **WHEREAS**, from January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024, at least 8 drug/narcotics
34 violations were reported by the Bellingham Police Department on N. State St. between 200
35 BLK State St. and 2000 BLK N. State St.; and
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37 **WHEREAS**, from January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024, at least 10 behavioral health
38 investigations were reported by the Bellingham Police Department on N. State St. between
39 200 BLK State St. and 2000 BLK N. State St.; and
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41 **WHEREAS**, from January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024, at least 32 trouble with a
42 person incidents were reported by the Bellingham Police Department on N. State St.
43 between 200 BLK State St. and 2000 BLK N. State St.; and
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45 **WHEREAS**, from January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024, at least 33 graffiti incidents
46 were reported by the Bellingham Police Department on N. State St. between 200 BLK State
47 St. and 2000 BLK N. State St.; and
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49 **WHEREAS**, between October 2023 and January 2024, the 22 North Task Force has
50 reported at least 24 crisis calls by onsite staff for police services, off-site staff, private
51 security, or medical response teams in the four-month period; and
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1 **WHEREAS**, between February 2022 and May 2024, there have been at least 8
2 individuals who have died at the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility; and
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4 **WHEREAS**, between June 2022 and January 2024, the 22 North Task Force has
5 reported at least 17 resident evictions at the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing
6 Facility; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, community members have shared concerns with the 22 North Task
9 Force and with the Whatcom County Council regarding drug-usage, violence, and criminal
10 activities inside the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility and the surrounding
11 areas; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, on June 15, [2022](#), Cascadia Daily published an article stating that
14 community members near 1022 N. State St. reported increased litter, thefts, vandalism,
15 assaults, and drug use as a result of the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility;
16 and
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18 **WHEREAS**, in response to increased crime surrounding the 22 North Permanent
19 Supportive Housing Facility in [2022](#), the article from Cascadia Daily reported the Bellingham
20 Police Department enhanced patrols around the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing
21 Facility; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, Whatcom Health and Community Services reported the average cost of a
24 bed per year in 2022 at the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility is \$25,000.
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26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council requests
27 the Whatcom County Executive to cancel all contracts with the Opportunity Council and
28 Northwest Youth Services relating to the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility;
29 and
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31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council requests the
32 Whatcom County Executive immediately cancel all county funding and pass through funding
33 for the 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Facility with the intent of permanently
34 shutting down the current program; and
35

36 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council requests the
37 Whatcom County Executive develop a strategy to repurpose the current 22 North facility
38 into a secure detox and treatment facility and seek reinstatement of funding towards the
39 new objective.
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41 **APPROVED** this ____ day of _____, 2024.
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44 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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49 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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51 _____
52 Civil Deputy Prosecutor