

May 13, 2024

Whatcom County Council Members
311 Grande Avenue, Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Support for Bringing Medical Examiner and Staff In-House

Dear Members of the Whatcom County Council,

We, the undersigned, write to express our full support for the proposal to bring our esteemed Medical Examiner, Allison Hunt, and her dedicated team of professionals in-house as County employees. As key stakeholders in the legal system of Whatcom County, we believe this move is not only practical but also essential for the continued enhancement of our investigative capabilities and the delivery of justice.

Hunt and her team have consistently demonstrated their unwavering commitment to professionalism, responsiveness, and excellence in their roles within the medical examiner's office. Their dedication to their work has been instrumental in elevating our medical examiner services to meet and exceed national standards. This achievement is a testament to their expertise, diligence, and tireless efforts in serving our community.

From the perspective of the Prosecutor's Office, having the medical examiner and her staff as County employees would streamline communication and collaboration, fostering greater efficiency in our investigative processes. This would enable us to more effectively fulfill our duty to pursue justice on behalf of the residents of Whatcom County.

Similarly, from the standpoint of the Public Defender's Office, the professionalism and reliability demonstrated by Allison Hunt and her team have been invaluable in ensuring fair and thorough examinations in cases involving our clients. Their impartiality and commitment to accuracy have contributed significantly to upholding the principles of justice and equity within our legal system.

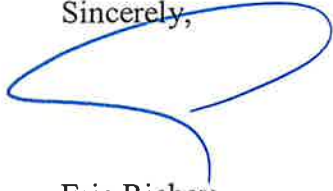
Bringing the medical examiner and her staff in-house aligns with our shared goal of continuously improving the quality and effectiveness of our services to the community. By formalizing their status as County employees, we can further enhance accountability, oversight, and coordination, ultimately benefiting all stakeholders involved in the legal process.

In conclusion, we urge the Whatcom County Council to give serious consideration to this proposal and take the necessary steps to transition the medical examiner and her staff to County

employees. Their invaluable contributions to our investigative team and their dedication to excellence merit this formal recognition and support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Richey
Prosecutor



Stark Follis
Public Defender