

**Whatcom County  
Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**

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



**Committee Minutes - Final**

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE;  
ENDS NO LATER THAN 10:25 A.M.

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

**9:25 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Carol Frazey

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd and Carol Frazey

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Rud Browne, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kathy Kershner

## **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2020-501](#) Presentation and discussion of Public Defense Policies for conflict of Codefendants and Case Weighting Standards for Whatcom County Public Defender's Office

The following people briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions:

- George Roche, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Starck Follis, Public Defender's Office

They answered questions about why the Public Defense Policies Memo lists conflict of interest as a challenge facing indigent defense, who is on the Public Defense Advisory Committee and whether these policies have been vetted through that committee, how many other counties have case-weighting policies, whether the proposed weighting system is a standard from the State or a system the Public Defender's Office has historically been using, whether this would be neutral in how the cases are measured per attorney or whether the Public Defender's Office would need to bring more contract work in at times should these policies get put in place, and when the proposed policies should come before the Council for formal consideration.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.**

## **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Barry Buchanan-via email 11/13/2020**

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

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Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE