

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

**SUPPORTING WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTIES, CORRECTIONS DEPUTIES  
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ACROSS THE COUNTY IN RESPONSE TO THE  
INCREASED ATTACKS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2020, two LA County Sheriff Deputies were shot multiple times while in their patrol vehicle in an unprovoked ambush by a single shooter; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2020, a uniformed federal court security officer working for the U.S. Marshals Service was shot in a drive-by outside a federal courthouse in Phoenix, AZ, in what appears to be a targeted attack; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 19, 2020, a Kern County Sheriff Deputy was ambushed and attacked while responding to a stolen vehicle report; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 19, 2020, the Ferndale Border Patrol Facility was vandalized with violent messaging against Border Patrol Agents.

**WHEREAS**, as of September 11, 2020, F.B.I. data reports thirty-seven law enforcement officers have been reported feloniously killed in 2020, eight were victims of an ambush (entrapment/premeditation), two were a victim of an unprovoked attack including Police Officer Shoop of Bothell, Washington Police Department, July 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council condemns these acts of violence against Law Enforcement Officers and calls for swift action to bring justice in these cases.

**WHEREAS**, there has been a call throughout the United States, and locally, to cut the budget of law enforcement, with tensions and rhetoric escalating nationwide and locally; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been calls upon the Whatcom County Council to cut the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office budget by 50%, or \$17.6 million and fund alternative programs to law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County has funded alternative programs for years including the following: LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), GRACE (Ground-Level Response And Coordinated Engagement), Gang Prevention, Community Paramedic, Homeless Outreach Team, Youth Street Outreach Team, Neighborhood Policing/Sheriff, Opiate Addiction Outreach & Engagement, School-based mental health and drug prevention programs, Crisis Triage Facility, CPIT (Crisis Prevention & Intervention Team), CIT training for law enforcement, Intensive Case Management, Teen Court, Drug Court, Family Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, Jail Re-Entry, Interim Housing, New 32-bed Mental Health facility (under construction), Specialized Behavioral Health Unit in Probation, Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Services, Housing Support Services, PACT (Program for Assertive Community Treatment), and many more that help community members; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2000, the Whatcom County Council adopted the Law and Justice Plan (developed by the Whatcom County Law and Justice Council and updated in 2008) that included a commissioned deputy staffing goal of 1.2 commissioned officers per 1,000 population that has yet to be attained; and

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council recognizes the valuable role the Sheriff Deputies, Corrections Deputies and all Law Enforcement Officials provide in ensuring our public safety and know their service is vital to our community, as these are the men and women who put themselves in harm's way to keep the rest of us safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council is committed to ensuring our County is a safe and welcoming place to live and visit for ALL people, and believe there is more that unites us as a community than divides us when it comes to public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Whatcom County Council supports and values our Sheriff Deputies, Corrections Deputies and all Law Enforcement Officials across the County, condemns all violence against those officers, is committed to the Law and Justice Plan for staffing, and has made public safety a top priority in the 2021-2022 budget.

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of September 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor