



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2020-406

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File Created:	09/21/2020	Entered by:	DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us		
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Assigned to:	Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee			Final Action:	09/29/2020
Agenda Date:	09/29/2020			Enactment #:	RES 2020-037

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TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution 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

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Resolution supporting Whatcom County Sheriff Deputies, Correctons Deputies, and Law Enforcement Officials across the County in response to the increased attacks on law enforcement across the Country

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
09/29/2020	Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee	DISCUSSED	
09/29/2020	Council	SUBSTITUTE APPROVED	
		Aye: 6	Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, Elenbaas, and Kershner
		Nay: 0	
		Absent: 0	
		Temp Absent: 1	Byrd

Attachments: Original Proposed Resolution, Revised Proposed Resolution (9.25.2020), Substitute Resolution Kershner/Browne 9.29.2020

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-037

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTIES, WHATCOM
COUNTY CORRECTIONS DEPUTIES AND SUPPORT STAFF**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Sheriffs and Corrections Deputies along with their essential support staff perform services that are vital to public safety and the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Corrections Deputies are responsible for the custody, security and safety of many potentially dangerous people and are exposed to many inherent dangers. When trouble arises our Deputies willingly accept the responsibility to run towards danger, rather than away; and

WHEREAS, as a community we ask our Whatcom County Sheriff Deputies to be prepared at every call to determine if they need to prevent, detect, and investigate criminal activities or connect victims and others in need to social services, mental health, drug and alcohol treatment options; and

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

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2020, a fire at the home of a Washington State Patrol trooper in the Everson-Nooksack area is being investigated as an arson; and

WHEREAS, for decades, governments across the nation have asked law enforcement to provide front line intervention and assessment of cases of mental illness while often being unwilling to provide the funds necessary to equip officers with the tools to identify and respond to mental illness appropriately. Which has led to both citizens and police calling for more money to be spent on alternative ways to respond to situations that don't involve the use of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, one of the causes some communities have been unsuccessful in reducing racial injustice and overly aggressive responses by members of law enforcement who have proven to be poorly suited to the job, is the lack proper funding to hire strong leadership capable of change management, extensive screening and testing of new applicants, adequate ongoing training, supervision and oversight; and

1 **WHEREAS**, recognizing that alternative programs are not a new concept to our
2 community, that the Whatcom County government has for many years, worked with the
3 Whatcom County Sheriff Department, Whatcom County Jail Deputies and Staff, the
4 Whatcom County Courts and other agencies in de-escalation and other non-traditional law
5 enforcement techniques and justice options; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, listed in "Alternatives" (attached) are some of the things our community
8 has already been funding for many years to promote racial justice, reduce incarceration and
9 recognize that many need mental health or substance abuse treatment rather than
10 incarceration. Yet we all acknowledge it is but a base from which further progress must and
11 will be made; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the community wants us to continue (a) reducing the number of
14 incidents involving the use of deadly force by funding our long-established, on-going
15 training of Sheriff and Corrections Deputies on force response and de-escalation; effective
16 techniques for intervening with those undergoing behavioral health crisis; and use of non-
17 lethal techniques and equipment, and (b) leveraging our Mental Health Deputy program;
18 Crisis Negotiation Team; Community policing through Neighborhood and Resident Deputy
19 programs etc.; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, calls to cut local law enforcement funding in response to problems
22 experienced elsewhere in the country, if applied here, would negatively impact local law
23 enforcement's involvement in the existing alternative social and criminal justice programs
24 our community has been investing in for years; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, calls to cut local law enforcement funding would by necessity result in
27 (a) delaying deployment of Sheriff Deputies body cameras, which hold both officers and
28 offenders, accountable to the objective reporting standards that only video can provide and
29 (b) reduce training, supervision and oversight; and
30

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council supports and
32 appreciates our Sheriff's Deputies, our Corrections Deputies, the Whatcom County Courts
33 and their respective support staff, plus the many other local agencies who work alongside
34 them to keep the safety and health of all members of Whatcom County our top priority; and
35

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Whatcom County Council condemns these and all
37 acts of violence against Law Enforcement Officers; and
38

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council supports and
40 appreciates the need to promote further racial and economic justice, that in doing so we
41 acknowledge both our historical failings and progress, and fully commit to continue to do
42 more in the future; and
43

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council asks our community to
45 step forward, to promote racial justice by (a) continuing to provide financial support for (a)
46 our investment in a qualified and skilled law enforcement agency, (b) the Alternatives listed
47 along with the law enforcements ongoing participation in these programs; and
48

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Whatcom County Council is committed to ensuring
2 our County is a safe and welcoming place to live and visit, and believe there is more that
3 unites us as a community than divides us when it comes to public safety; and
4

5 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Council asks all our community
6 members to continue to work with us to eliminate racial and economic injustice by being
7 vigilant in rejecting the (often unconscious) implicit bias that can exist in hiring, renting
8 accommodation, providing or purchasing goods and services, in education and other
9 opportunities.

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11 **ADOPTED** this 29th day of September, 2020.

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14 ATTEST:

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17 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by Karen Frakes via email / LB
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Alternatives

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- 5 Incarceration Reduction and Prevention Task Force
- 6 LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)
- 7 GRACE (Ground-Level Response And Coordinated Engagement)
- 8 Gang Prevention Programs
- 9 Community Paramedic
- 10 Homeless Outreach Team
- 11 Youth Street Outreach Team
- 12 Neighborhood Policing/Sheriff
- 13 Opiate addiction Outreach & Engagement
- 14 School-based programs (mental health / drug prevention etc.)
- 15 Crisis Triage Facility
- 16 Crisis Prevention & Intervention Team (CPIT)
- 17 CIT Training for Law Enforcement
- 18 Intensive Case Management
- 19
- 20 COURT DIVERSION PROGRAMS
- 21 Teen Court
- 22 Drug Court
- 23 Family Treatment Court
- 24 Mental Health Court
- 25
- 26 RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS
- 27 Jail Re-entry program
- 28 Medications and community-based treatment following release
- 29 Interim Housing
- 30 Case Management
- 31
- 32 RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES
- 33 New 32 bed Mental Health facility (under construction)
- 34 Specialized Behavioral Health Unit in Probation
- 35 Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Services
- 36 Housing Support Services
- 37 24/7 Staffed/Structured Supporting Housing Programs
- 38 Semi-independent Housing Programs
- 39 PACT (Program for Assertive Community Treatment)
- 40