

**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 - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

1:35 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Jon Scanlon

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Jon Scanlon

Also Present: Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, and Mark Stremmler

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2025-217](#) Report from District Court Probation

Jake Wiebusch, District Court Administrator, read from a presentation (on file). He answered whether their officer to caseload ratio is right, and stated he thinks it is but they would probably like to add an additional staff member to the high-risk domestic violence unit. He answered what the difference is between the District Court and Superior Court pre-trial units, and he spoke about the differences in their processes. He answered if they have any positive stories about people who have been through the various programs.

Judge Jonathan Rands, District Court Judge, spoke about success stories he sees every week.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-183](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 1.28 Standards for Correctional Facilities

Steve Harris, Undersheriff, gave an update on the correctional standards and answered questions. He stated the foundational premise of this proposal is to keep the correctional standards within County Code, preserving Council's ability to make amendments as needed. Rather than presenting the Council with hundreds of pages of policy to review, they have updated the code language to align with current correctional standards. He answered whether the policies will be online. He stated as soon as they get them all updated they are going to be live online and they already have a lot of the correctional standards posted. What is in front of Council today is just an overview of what standards are, and for more specifics, they would refer to actual policies.

Galloway referred to potential scrivener's errors in the ordinance.

This agenda item was 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 2:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger