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## WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

June 1, 2021

TO: County Councilmembers

FROM: Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator II

SUBJ: Appointments to the Criminal Justice Treatment Account Panel

RCW 71.24.580(6) regarding the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) establishes a local panel to oversee priorities for funding which are then referred to the County Authority for approval. Two of the positions on the panel are to be appointed by the County Council:

“(6) The county alcohol and drug coordinator, county prosecutor, county sheriff, county superior court, a substance abuse treatment provider appointed by the county legislative authority, a member of the criminal defense bar appointed by the county legislative authority, and, in counties with a drug court, a representative of the drug court...”

- Whatcom County Public Defender Starck Follis has historically served in the position designated for a member of the criminal defense bar, although he is unappointed by Council.
- On September 29, 2020, Council appointed Carolyn Mason to the substance abuse treatment provider position, but did not designate a term length or end date.

Whatcom County Code 2.03.020 requires that appointments to boards, committees and commissions of noncouncilmembers made by the council shall be for terms that are no longer than 4 years

Whatcom County Code 2.03.030 limits the number of terms to two consecutive full terms.

Requested Action: The County Council is asked to approve a motion that will:

1. Appoint Mr. Follis to the criminal defense bar position with a first term ending January 31, 2025, per WCC.2.03.020 and .230.
2. Affirm the Council’s previous appointment of Ms. Mason with a first term ending January 31, 2024, per WCC.2.03.020 and .230.