

PROPOSED BY: _____
INTRODUCTION DATE: June 4, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Amending Ordinance 2023-039 regarding the membership and formation of the Justice Project Finance Advisory Board

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2023-039 on July 11, 2023 that includes a sales and use tax for funding of public health, safety, and justice facilities and services, which voters approved at the November 2023 General Election; implementation of the Justice Project Implementation Plan; and a request that the Whatcom County Executive develop and enter into a long-term agreement with the Whatcom County cities governing the distribution of sales and use tax revenue collected; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Ordinance 2023-039 authorizes the creation of a Finance Advisory Board to provide financial oversight of the funds collected from this sales and use tax and make recommendations on the finance and operations of the jail, behavioral health, and supportive housing facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Ordinance 2023-039 indicates the County Council will appoint two positions to the Finance Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the County and municipalities have developed an interlocal agreement governing the distribution of sales and use tax revenue collected, including the creation of a Finance and Facility Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Part IV, Item 3a of the interlocal agreement indicates two positions will be appointed by the County Executive and Bellingham Mayor, with confirmation by the County Council and Bellingham City Council; and

WHEREAS, the appointment procedures and membership for the advisory board conflict between Ordinance 2023-039, including the Justice Project Implementation Plan, and the interlocal agreements; and

WHEREAS, the interlocal agreement specifies the Bellingham Police Chief as the municipal law enforcement representative in the membership of the Finance Advisory Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council to amend the following sections of Ordinance 2023-03:

SECTION 5 – INTERJURISDICTIONAL AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION:

If this sales and use tax is approved by the voters:

1. The Whatcom County Council requests the Whatcom County Executive to include in the long-term agreement with the Whatcom County cities the development of a Finance and Facility Advisory Board, which shall provide financial oversight of the funds collected from this sales and use tax and make recommendations on the finance and operations of the jail, behavioral health, and supportive housing facilities and services, aligned with a population health report on public health and safety. County Council

1 **Executive** shall appoint, **and the County Council shall confirm,** members to the Finance
2 Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall consist of the Whatcom County Executive,
3 one Whatcom County Councilmember, the Whatcom County Sheriff, the Mayor of
4 Bellingham, one Bellingham City Councilmember, one elected representative from the
5 remaining cities within Whatcom County, two elected representatives from federally
6 recognized tribes within Whatcom County, ~~one municipal law enforcement~~
7 ~~representative~~ **The Bellingham Police Chief,** the chair(s) of the IPRTF/LJC, one
8 individual with lived experience in the criminal justice system, and one representative
9 of the behavioral health system **who shall live in Whatcom County or be a**
10 **representative of an agency or group that serves Whatcom County.** Meetings of the
11 Board shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
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13 **BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that future updates of
14 the Justice Project Implementation Plan will include the membership and appointment
15 process of the Finance and Facility Advisory Board that is consistent with the interlocal
16 agreements.
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20 **ADOPTED** this ____ day of _____, 20____.

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24 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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27 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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30 WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
31 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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33 *Approved via email 5/22/2024*
34 _____
George Roche, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

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37 () Approved () Denied

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39 Date Signed: _____
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