

**STEPHEN GOCKLEY**  
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(360) 305-2944  
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March 4, 2019

Bellingham and Whatcom County Housing Authorities  
208 Unity Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Application for Board of Commissioners

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter and the additional enclosed materials as my application for appointment to the Bellingham and Whatcom County Housing Authorities' Board of Commissioners.

As a retired civil legal aid attorney, I have been actively involved in subsidized and affordable housing matters for many years. The federal programs managed by the Bellingham and Whatcom County Housing Authorities (BWCHA) maintain an indispensable safety net for many low-income, disadvantaged and at-risk individuals and families. I have been especially impressed in recent years as the BWCHA has also become a major catalyst for developing new housing resources in the community. Because stable affordable housing is such a critical foundation for productive and healthy lives, I consider the BWCHA to be one of the most important elements in building a community of which we can all be proud, and I would welcome an opportunity to join directly in its work.

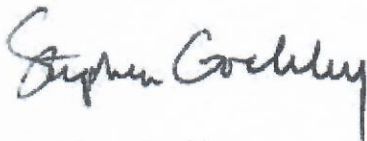
My legal efforts on behalf of BWCHA clients naturally included participating in internal administrative hearings and court proceedings, but more often it involved working hand-in-hand with BWCHA staff to ensure local policies best served our mutual client population. I came to appreciate that BWCHA staff are respectful of those individuals, aware of the challenges they face living in poverty, and committed to solving their problems whenever possible.

I have a broad knowledge of the needs of low-income persons related to health access and health disparities, family safety and self-sufficiency, education, disability rights, and other areas addressed by local social service providers. I also have strong personal and professional relationships with those providers and local policy-makers. I am a co-chair of the County's Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, which is an

effective partnership of public and non-profit entities creating constructive community-based reforms in our legal and justice systems. Recently, I have supported affordable housing development through advocacy for homeless services and housing quality, being part of a Northwest Youth Services planning committee for the 22 North building on State Street, promoting an expansion of recovery housing for drug court participants, and campaigning for renewal of the Bellingham Home Fund. More generally, besides my legal training, I have a master's degree in human services management and years of experience on various non-profit boards of directors, which give me an understanding of financial oversight, legal compliance, and policy-making roles that would allow me to play a meaningful part in the Board of Commissioners' governance responsibilities.

I am enclosing my resume, a list of three references, and documentation of city residency as requested. If I can provide any more initial information, please let me know. I very much hope for the chance to discuss my application with you further in subsequent stages of the selection process. Thank you for considering me for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Gockley".

Stephen Gockley

Encls: Resume

Personal references contact information

Washington driver license and voter registration card



RESUME  
**STEPHEN GOCKLEY**  
2315 J Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
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**RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

ATTORNEY	Northwest Justice Project	Bellingham, WA	1996-2016 (ret.)
	Evergreen Legal Services	Bellingham, WA	1988-1996

*Civil legal aid practice in the areas of rental housing and homeless rights, federally subsidized housing programs, health care and mental health policy and coverage, disability rights, special education, and public benefits. Served as NJP Senior (Managing) Attorney 2000-2012.*

**EDUCATION**

1988 J.D. Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

**RELEVANT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

2015- Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Whatcom County Council appointment  
2019- **CO-CHAIR**, Task Force  
2017- **CHAIR**: Legal and Justice Systems Subcommittee

2017- Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, Board of Directors

2004- Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA), Board of Directors  
**PRESIDENT** 2009-2011

2018-19 Healthy Whatcom Action Team, Member  
Whatcom County Health Department  
*Selected stakeholder group developing federally-required Community Health Improvement Plan*

2016-17 Northwest Youth Services  
Ad Hoc Capital Campaign Committee for 22 North, supported housing development

2014-17 North Sound Accountable Community of Health, Board of Directors  
*Regional non-profit designated by Washington State to achieve health care transformation and health outcome improvements in 5-county area*

1996-2016 LAW Advocates, Board of Directors  
*Whatcom County non-profit coordinating volunteer lawyer services*

**REFERENCES FOR STEPHEN GOCKLEY**  
**IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR BWCHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**GREG WINTER**

Executive Director, **Opportunity Council**  
1111 Cornwall Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-220-3788

**DEAN WIGHT**

Interim Executive Director, **Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement**  
800 E. Chestnut St., Lower Level, Ste. 1  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-788-3561

**HEATHER FLAHERTY**

Executive Director, **Chuckanut Health Foundation**  
1500 Cornwall Ave #201  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-671-3349