



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Whatcom County Council

**FROM:** Jed Holmes, Community Outreach Facilitator

**RE:** Interlocal Agreement to Support the Development of a Racial Equity Commission

**DATE:** 04/08/2021

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The County Executive requests authorization to enter into an interlocal between the City of Bellingham in support of the development of a countywide racial equity commission.

### ▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County recognizes the community-wide costs and impacts associated with racial inequity and disparities, including negative health care outcomes, increased health care costs, reduced economic opportunity, increased government services costs, poor education outcomes, crime, and housing insecurity. In November 2020, at the County Executive's suggestion, the County Council approved funding in the 2021-2023 biennium for a racial equity commission.

In acknowledgement of the importance of having a community-led process, Whatcom County has identified a qualified partner, Chuckanut Health Foundation, to lead and manage the community engagement process to develop and propose recommendations on the establishment of a countywide racial equity commission. Those recommendations would then be brought to Council for consideration, potentially by the end of 2021.

### ▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The interlocal allows the County to be reimbursed by the City of Bellingham for 50% (up to \$45,000) of the cost of work performed under the County's contract with Chuckanut Health Foundation. The approved 2021 General Fund budget includes the budget authority for this project.

Please contact Jed Holmes at extension 5209, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of these agreements.