

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



COUNCILMEMBERS

Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

February 26, 2019

Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville
Bellingham City Council Members
Bellingham Police Chief David Doll

Re: Assistance with Law Enforcement Coverage at the Warming Shelter

Dear City of Bellingham Leaders:

On Friday, February 15, 2019, the Whatcom County Council held a special meeting and requested that the County administration open a temporary warming shelter for up to 35 men during an occurring cold weather event. After receiving approval from the City of Bellingham, a warming shelter was opened at 322 N. Commercial Street and the shelter continues to operate daily from 8 p.m. – 7 a.m., and will remain open through 7 a.m. Friday, March 1.

The warming shelter operates in shifts, with each shift staffed by a supervisor (either a County Councilmember or County staff person), two community volunteers (including members of the City Council), and a deputy from the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.

Today we learned that the Sheriff's Office is short staffed and unable to cover several shifts at the shelter this week. We also have a number of volunteers scheduled who are not comfortable working at the shelter without law enforcement present.

The County Council respectfully requests that officers from the Bellingham Police Department staff any remaining available shifts at the warming shelter through March 1, to be paid for by the City of Bellingham.

Currently, shifts **without** law enforcement coverage are as follows:

Wednesday, February 27: 1 a.m. – 7 a.m.
Wednesday, February 27: 8 - midnight
Thursday, February 28: 8 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.
Friday, March 1: 1:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.

Please consider the Council's request in a timely manner and respond as soon as possible so we can ensure safe and adequate staffing at the warming shelter.

Sincerely,

Rud Browne, Chair
Whatcom County Council

cc: AB2019-142
Sheriff Bill Elfo
Undersheriff Jeff Parks

