

PROPOSED BY: _____

INTRODUCED: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

ADOPTING THE FOOD SYSTEM PLAN CREATED BY THE WHATCOM COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Goal 7L in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan calls for the County to “Strengthen the local food system and take steps to improve conditions for a healthy, resilient, and prosperous food economy”; and continues on Policy Goal 7L-8 which states “Support establishment of communitywide food system development plans”; and

WHEREAS, on November 7th, 2018, the Whatcom County Council adopted [Ordinance 2018-058](#), establishing the Whatcom County Food System Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Food System Committee has been tasked with developing a Food System Plan for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has a proud tradition of agricultural excellence and deserves a food system that supports our local food economy; and

WHEREAS, the economics section of the County comprehensive plan calls for a county-wide food system plan; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed and highlighted the inequities and imperfections in our food system; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State programs for those impacted by COVID-19 have ended, leaving families faced with choosing between paying for food or rent; and

WHEREAS, local farmers, grocers, food banks and other businesses connected to Whatcom’s food system could benefit from intentional, well-planned actions on the part of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Food System Committee updated the [Community Food Assessment](#) in 2021, identifying inconsistencies and opportunities in the food system; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom Food System Committee interviewed over 200 subject matter experts working on the front lines of our food system to develop this plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the Food

System Plan be adopted, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and be administered by the Whatcom County Health and Community Services Department with oversight by the Whatcom County Food System Committee and the Whatcom County Council under the authority of the County Executive.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Royce Buckingham approved via e-mail on 4/24/23/MR

Royce Buckingham, Civil Deputy Prosecutor