

**WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

*We listen. We care. We fight.*

**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
DEPUTY**  
Thomas H. Fryer

**OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATOR**  
Julie G. Wiles

**INVESTIGATIVE  
SUPERVISOR**  
Joe Dozal

**INVESTIGATORS**  
Brandi Bowers  
Kelsey Grindley  
Ryan Gray  
Susie Coberly  
Tallan Paul

**BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH  
SPECIALISTS**  
Nathan Bajema  
Courtney Taylor

**DIRECTOR**  
**Starck M. Follis**

**CHIEF DEPUTY**  
Maialisa Vanyo

215 N. Commercial Street  
Central Plaza Building  
Bellingham, Washington 98225

(360) 778-5640  
FAX (360) 778-5641

[pubdef@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:pubdef@co.whatcom.wa.us)

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/311/Public-Defender>

**SENIOR DEPUTY II**  
Shoshana Paige  
Richard S. Larson


**SENIOR DEPUTIES**  
Jane Boman  
Peter G. Ramey  
Krista van Amerongen  
Scott Schmidt  
C. Kurt Parrish  
Timothy Arnold  
Shoshanah Epstein  
Sarah Jurick  
Carl Munson

**DEPUTIES**  
Kayla Wolfe  
Matthew Mearns  
Kathryn Brush  
Sydney Miyahara  
Eleanor R. White  
Eric Mapes  
Saybin Shankman  
Nathaniel L.J. Freimund

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** November 17, 2023

**To:** Satpal Sidhu  
Whatcom County Executive

Whatcom County Council Members  
**From:** Julie Wiles   
Office Administrator

**Subject:** Contract re: Washington State Office of Public Defense grant funding for 2024

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**BACKGROUND**

Each year, since 2007, the Public Defender's office has received grant funds from the Washington State Office of Public Defense (pursuant to Chapter 10.101 RCW) in order to help cover two attorney positions in the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office. The grant is based on the amount of felony filings and therefore fluctuates from year to year.

For 2024, the Office of Public Defense proposes to provide \$213,905.00 to the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office for the purpose of improving the quality of public defense services.

**ACTION:**

We request the County Council approve the contract and for the Executive to then sign the contract, for further processing.

**Enclosures:**

Contract Information Sheet

2 originals of the subject OPD contract for signature