

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Establishing a New Whatcom County Healthy Children’s Fund

WHEREAS, the Healthy Children’s Fund is a complex initiative requiring strategic planning and significant managerial and administrative oversight: and,

WHEREAS, a unique financial and operational relationship exists between Whatcom County and the Healthy Children’s Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council approved Ordinance 2022-045 to provide for the submission of a proposition to the qualified electors of Whatcom County authorizing the County to lift the limit of regular property taxes under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the purpose of funding for childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, in November 2022, Proposition 5, the Healthy Children’s Fund, was approved by voters in Whatcom County consistent with Ordinance 2022-045 to establish a dedicated fund to improve the health and well-being of children and youth, as well as the families and communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the levy lid lift authorized the county to increase the General Fund levy in 2023 and in the following 9 years by \$ 0.19 per \$ 1,000 of assessed value of taxable property within the County, with proceeds deposited in a separate fund ("Healthy Children' s Fund) and spent according to Ordinance 2022- 045; and

WHEREAS, in November, 2022, Ordinance 2022-092 established the initial Healthy Children’s Fund as a unique County fund; and

WHEREAS, all levy proceeds generated by Proposition 5 shall be deposited into the Healthy Children's Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Children's Fund revenues and proceeds shall be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in Section 3, ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES, as defined in Ordinance 2022-045; and

WHEREAS, all Healthy Children’s Fund revenues and proceeds shall be maintained, budgeted and allocated for as defined under Ordinance 2022-045; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council wishes to further affirm the establishment of the Healthy Children’s Fund through this ordinance and clarify that interest income earned on the fund may be reinvested in fund activities; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled the "Whatcom County Healthy Children's Fund" which shall be dedicated to accounting for all financial aspects of the Healthy Children's levy funding.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any interest income generated by the Healthy Children's Fund shall benefit the same.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

/s/Royce Buckingham approved via email on 10/6/2023/MR

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____