



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator II

DATE: January 20, 2026

RE: AB2025-806: Reconsideration of appointment to JPOP Committee, Richard Gleason

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Jill Nixon".

County Council appointed Richard Gleason to the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee on April 9, 2024. Mr. Gleason has not attended a meeting since October 2024 and has not been in contact with the committee since May 2025. Please see the Record of Correspondence with Mr. Gleason. He has emailed me a few times since November 2025 on other issues, but attempts to reengage him with the committee haven't been successful.

Whatcom County Code 2.03, Advisory Groups, provides the following guidance in removing members from advisory groups:

2.03.025 Removal.

In circumstances where the council has the authority to remove from office a member of an advisory group prior to the expiration of the advisory group member's term of office, the council shall make such removal only upon the proper grounds specified in law. In the absence of such guidance in law, the council shall not remove a member from office without having given the member an opportunity to be heard by the council, if so requested.

Whatcom County Council has the authority to remove Mr. Gleason from his position on the committee. There is no specific guidance in law for removing a member of the JPOP Committee other than WCC 2.03.025. Attachments to this agenda item document the attempts that have been made to give Mr. Gleason an opportunity to participate on the committee.

Council Action Requested

Pass a motion to vacate Mr. Gleason's position on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, and direct Council staff to advertise the vacancy and collect qualified applications.

For more information, please contact Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator II, at ext. 5032.