



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Report

File Number: AB2023-699

File ID: AB2023-699 **Version:** 1 **Status:** Approved
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Assigned to: Council Public Works & Health Committee **Final Action:** 10/24/2023
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Related Files:

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TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution supporting the Lummi Indian Business Council's (LIBC) state of emergency declaration in response to the fentanyl crisis

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Resolution supporting the Lummi Indian Business Council's (LIBC) state of emergency declaration in response to the fentanyl crisis

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
10/24/2023	Council Public Works & Health Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL Aye: 3 Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner Nay: 0	
10/24/2023	Council	APPROVED Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner Nay: 0	

Attachments: Proposed Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 041

**SUPPORTING THE LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL'S (LIBC)
STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION IN RESPONSE TO THE FENTANYL CRISIS**

WHEREAS, according to WhatcomOverdosePrevention.org, overdose deaths in Whatcom County in 2023 (91 to date) are on pace to exceed deaths last year and have markedly increased every year since 2018; and

WHEREAS, in June 2023, healthcare workers, tribal leaders, educators, community members and law enforcement gathered for a 2-day workshop, All Hands Whatcom: Opioid Summit, as a call to listening, healing, and action for the Whatcom community in response to the devastating consequences of fentanyl, meth, and opioids; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2023, the Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC) held a special meeting and met with the Lummi Nation Police Department (LNPD), the Lummi Courts, the Lummi Counseling Services (CARE), and Lummi Tribal Health Center (LTHC) to work collaboratively to update the Lummi Nation Emergency Declaration on the Fentanyl Crisis; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2023, the Lummi Indian Business Council approved Resolution 2023-145, declaring a state of emergency in response to the fentanyl crisis; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2023-145 provides LIBC with new and immediate avenues to enhance capabilities, coordination, and collaboration across tribal, local, state, and federal agencies and bring together state agencies, local law enforcement, and internal and external partners to pursue and achieve solutions that promote public health and safety on the Lummi Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the LIBC is taking bold action to save lives, including the following:

- Starting the exclusion and banishment process for all drug dealers on the reservation,
- Mandating training to all LIBC entities on fentanyl and identifying gaps and barriers in services,
- Having a warrant list specifically for drug dealers available to the community and published somewhere so they can easily identify and notify law enforcement,
- Taking all actions necessary to shut down all drug houses,
- Directing the administration to come up with a messaging plan to the youth and a plan for prevention and counseling, and
- Implementing DUI and drug check points,

as well as other efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council understands coordination between all agencies in our county as well as state and federal supports are needed to fight the fentanyl crisis.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council recognizes the
2 fentanyl crisis affecting Whatcom County, the Lummi Nation, and other communities across the
3 country; and
4

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Whatcom County Council recognizes the bold
6 actions of the LIBC to address the fentanyl crisis; and
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8 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the Whatcom County Council supports local agency and
9 tribal coordination as well as state and federal supports to fight the fentanyl crisis.
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12 **APPROVED** this 24th day of October, 2023.

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14
15 ATTEST

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18 _____
19 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

 Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

21
22 _____
23 Karen Frakes (by email 10/17/2023)

24 Civil Deputy Prosecutor