

6  
7 **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
8

9 **CLARIFYING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE**  
10 **WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL'S AND SENIOR STAFF'S ACCESS**  
11 **TO INFORMATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the staff of the Whatcom County Health Department were previously stretched  
14 very thin as they responded to the initial phase of the COVID-19 crisis. To minimize the workload,  
15 the Whatcom County Council and others were asked to funnel questions for the Whatcom Unified  
16 Command, through the Health Department Director, and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the process of requiring information requests to be submitted through the  
19 Health Department Director can impair Councilmember's and Senior Staff's ability to receive the  
20 information they need to execute their responsibilities in a timely fashion, and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, as the first wave of the crisis has past and the focus is shifting to economic  
23 considerations, which will require the equal participation of all branches of government it appears  
24 to be a good time to revisit how Councilmembers and Senior Staff may access information in the  
25 future.  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, for the purposes of this resolution "Senior Staff" shall mean senior staff  
28 employed by Whatcom County, senior staff employed by other local agencies and governments,  
29 and any persons serving in a leadership or management position within Unified Command.  
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31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Whatcom County Council acting as the  
32 Whatcom County Health Board, the Whatcom County Health Department shall:  
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- 34 1. Use best efforts to ensure that any requests for information made by any  
35 Councilmember(s) or Senior Staff shall be processed as promptly, completely, as they  
36 would for any other official or senior staff employed by Whatcom County, and  
37
- 38 2. Ensure Councilmember(s) and Senior Staff have equal access to all future COVID-19  
39 briefings, materials and meetings provided or scheduled by all state and local  
40 authorities, agencies, governments, and advisory boards. Notice shall include all  
41 necessary information to access the meetings in real time and any minutes or recordings  
42 of the meetings. Notice shall be provided to council staff who shall create calendar  
43 invitations to Councilmembers (it is understood that to avoid quorum issues  
44 councilmembers made need to participate in briefings in listen only mode), and  
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2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, by the Whatcom County Council that  
3 the Whatcom Unified Command shall also use best efforts to ensure any requests for information  
4 made by a Councilmember(s) or Senior Staff shall be processed as promptly and completely as  
5 they would for any official or senior staff employed by Whatcom County.  
6

7 **ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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9  
10 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

11  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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15  
16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

17  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19  
20 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

21  
22 ( ) Approved ( ) Denied

23  
24 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_