

RESOLUTION NO. _____

APPROVING THE 2023 RECOMMENDED CONVENTION CENTER ALLOCATIONS FOR TOURISM-RELATED FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES AS DEFINED THROUGH RCW 67.28.1816

WHEREAS on September 7, 2022, the Whatcom County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) held a public meeting to consider 2023 funding for use of Convention Center Funds; and

WHEREAS, of the fifteen applications submitted, the LTAC recommends funding for fourteen eligible applicants in the amount of \$725,150 and further detailed in attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the LTAC further recommends a contingency in the amount of \$150,000 to be used in the event eligible applicants seek funding for tourism programs later in the year; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 funding recommendations totaling \$875,150 were determined based on the ability to promote and serve tourism activities in Whatcom County as defined in RCW 67.28; and

WHEREAS, all funding recipients must submit a report to the County describing the actual number of people traveling for business or pleasure on a trip as well as describing the results of the event of activity sponsored by the Convention Center Fund; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above referenced funding allocations directed to Chamber operations, events and festivals the LTAC further supports and recommends special project funding in the amount of \$565,775 for the delayed Wayfinding project developed by MERJE Design and facilitated by Bellingham Whatcom Tourism; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Convention Center Fund revenue is projected at \$1,500,000 and the 2023 fund balance is projected to be \$2,918,284; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council hereby authorizes the County Administration to allocate \$1,440,925 from the Lodging Tax Fund for the purposes of tourism related activities as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and detailed in attachment A.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:

Christopher Quinn per email 09/19/22
Civil Deputy Prosecutor