



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

THROUGH: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive

FROM: Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Manager

RE: Whatcom Racial Equity Commission Interlocal Agreement

DATE: October 17, 2022

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

On October 11, 2022, the Whatcom County Council adopted Chapter 2.107 to the Whatcom County Code in order to establish the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission (WREC). The proposed interlocal between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham outlines the jurisdictions' joint commitment to the work of the WREC as well as a proposed funding structure for an initial three-year period.

Like the agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence, this agreement includes an auto-renew provision. This auto-renew provision was established in the WREC interlocal in order to reflect the City of Bellingham's interest as a long-term stakeholder in the WREC. However, the joint commitment in the agreement does not commit either party to additional investment after an initial three-year period. Further, either party can terminate the agreement at its discretion or due to a reduction in funding.

- **Funding Amount, Source, and Use**

Total funding for this interlocal agreement is \$600,000 over three years, with half provided by Whatcom County and half provided by the City of Bellingham.

County funding shall not exceed \$300,000 and is funded with County general fund, contingent on Council's approval of the necessary funding in the 2023-2024 and 2025-2026 Whatcom County budgets.

WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Satpal Singh Sidhu
County Executive

The County intends to release a competitive Request for Proposals to identify a 501c3 fiscal sponsor, which will manage the day-to-day operations of the WREC. All County and City funding provided for under the proposed interlocal agreement will be invested into the contract with the selected fiscal sponsor. The Administration anticipates bringing forward that contract in Q1 2023.