



# CITY OF BLAINE

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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October 29, 2019

Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
Attn: Mark Personius, Planning Director  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

RE: Interim Procedures for Amending the Countywide Planning Policies: City Manager

Dear Mr. Personius,

Thank you for providing the City of Blaine the opportunity to assist in the development and review of the draft interlocal agreement for amending the Countywide Planning Policies. This letter concerns the most-recent edits to the document, dated September 2019, of Section 1.1.e.: Authority to Initiate Amendments.

The County Council Special Committee of the Whole proposes to remove the ability of any City Manager to initiate proposed amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies. The City of Blaine is organized under the Council-Manager form of government, one of the two principal forms of government for cities and towns in Washington State.<sup>1</sup> The City Manager directs the daily operations of city government, and is appointed by Council as the chief executive officer of the administration.<sup>2</sup> The Mayor is not an independently elected chief executive officer as is the case with other Whatcom County cities. Because the Mayor is not responsible for administrative and executive duties it is inappropriate for the interlocal agreement to vest that authority in the Mayor.

The proposal by the Special Committee to remove any City Manager's ability to initiate amendments fails to recognize Blaine's form of government and the authority of its City Manager. We respectfully request that Section 1.1.e, authorizing any City Manager to initiate amendments be retained in the interlocal agreement.

Please contact me at 360-543-9981 or [mjones@cityofblaine.com](mailto:mjones@cityofblaine.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Jones, MPA  
Blaine City Manager

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 35A.12 RCW.

<sup>2</sup> [www.mrsc.org](http://www.mrsc.org): City and Town Forms of Government