

**Whatcom County  
Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



**Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022  
2 PM  
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:45 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR  
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil)  
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Carol Frazey

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Carol Frazey

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

## Announcements

### Committee Discussion

1. [AB2022-159](#) Discussion and update on the progress and next steps for the Justice Project (Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment)

Buchanan and Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, presented on the history, recent developments, plans, and financial considerations.

Bill Elfo, Sheriff, spoke about immediate issues and measures they are currently using or looking at to ease some of the pressure on the jail right now.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated he did not have anything to add to the presentation but he answered questions.

The speakers answered how much pressure it would take off the jail if the deal happens with the City of Billingham to take felons to Snohomish County, what was the most number of people the County was able to take to Yakima County and why that option ended, whether other jurisdictions out-bid us for Yakima's spaces, when a new facility would open if it was approved by the voters, what the projected cost was to build the proposed facility when they went out to the voters in 2015, what a sales tax amount would need to be now, whether they are also exploring other ways to fund the jail other than a .2 percent sales tax, and what the projected timeline is for the work of the Justice Project to be done.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.**

### Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2022-256](#) Resolution amending the membership of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Justice Project

Buchanan briefed the Councilmembers.

Cathy Halka, Council Legislative Analyst, spoke about the proposed changes in the Resolution and whether the number of what constitutes a quorum should also be changed in the Resolution.

***Frazey moved*** and Byrd seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated the city mayors wrote a letter to the Council and it would be nice if the Council responded.

**Frazey's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Buchanan, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

### **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Barry Buchanan-via email 4/29/2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE