

**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, September 27, 2022

1 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 1:55 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT 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 1 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

Special Presentation

1. [AB2022-444](#) Report from the Sheriff's Office

Bill Elfo, Sheriff, reported.

Buchanan requested that Elfo send a copy of his written presentation.

Elfo answered whether rainbow fentanyl is in Washington State yet, whether the 30 additional deputies requested to be added in the next six years (five per year) would actually be building capacity, what the request will cost to bring five Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) in this budget cycle, whether special units will be able to be back at full force before the second year of the budget cycle, what impact the Blake decision has had on our ability to enforce drug dealing and distribution, whether there have been 58 suspected and 37 confirmed overdose deaths in Whatcom County in the last quarter or over the last year, what we are going to do to get out of all of issues reported and whether there is a light at the end of the tunnel, what the bridge will be between now and when a jail can be constructed to increase capacity, whether Snohomish County might be more open to talking about jail space after the first of the year and after they have gone through their budget cycle, who pulled the plug on a Snohomish County contract for jail space, and whether it would be helpful if the Council sent a letter to Snohomish County.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

2. [AB2022-511](#) Report from Superior Court

Dave Reynolds, Superior Court Director, reported and answered how progress is going on processing cases in Superior Court, whether we are beyond COVID-19 being a factor in slowing the pace of jury trials, and how

it is that there are now more courtrooms available for trials.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Barry Buchanan-via email 9/29/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE