

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

June 17, 2020

Blaine City Council
435 Martin St., Ste. 3000
Blaine, WA 98230

Dear City Council Leaders:

As Whatcom County makes plans to manage the financial crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Council invites local jurisdictions to collaborate with the County to discuss ideas for increasing the value of the services we provide to our community.

Last night the County Council approved the attached resolution, officially inviting council members from the cities of Bellingham, Lynden, Ferndale, Blaine, Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson, and the Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Councils to join us as we assess existing resources and explore ways to increase efficiencies in local government.

Please contact us at council@co.whatcom.wa.us by June 26 with your interest and we will schedule a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

Barry Buchanan, Chair
Whatcom County Council

cc: AB2020-252
Correspondence File

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-022

**INVITING OTHER LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO COLLABORATE
TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR TAXPAYERS**

WHEREAS, most, if not all, local governments within Washington State are predicting significant revenue shortfalls which is placing them under significant financial stress; Whatcom County is one of them; and

WHEREAS, all local governments within Whatcom County are looking at ways to maintain, even increase, certain services to our communities at the same time as we are being forced to reduce costs to balance our budgets; and

WHEREAS, some government functions have already been consolidated and managed by one branch of government because it is more efficient, providing better services at reduced cost than it would if each jurisdiction duplicated the same function (Existing examples are Treasury management, Jail services, and the Health Department); and

WHEREAS, it IS worth exploring to see if it may make sense to consolidate further government functions such as cyber security / IT, equipment/materials procurement, financial software systems, etc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council respectfully requests the participation of the Councilmembers from the Cities of Bellingham, Lynden, Ferndale, Blaine, Sumas, Nooksack and Everson, and the Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Councils to join us to explore opportunities to further collaborate and increase the value of the services offered by each of us at equal or less cost than we are doing presently.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council respectfully requests the County Executive to hire a facilitator with financial management experience to conduct research on ideas successfully employed in other counties and use these as an agenda to lead a series of six joint council discussions, and present a report with a list of joint councils' recommendations for possible areas for collaboration, no later than October 31st 2020.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, as the fiscal crisis we are now facing is a direct consequence of COVID-19 the Council respectfully recommends the cost of which should be paid for by a portion of the CARES Act. funding.

ADOPTED this 16th day of June, 2020.

ATTEST

Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by Karen Frakes via email
Civil Deputy Prosecutor