

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 1998 - 26

CLEARANCES	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.: County Council	1/7/98		1/13/97	County Council
Division Head:				
Dept. Head:				
Prosecutor:				
Budget:				
Executive:				

SUBJECT:

Resolution supporting Economic Summit and an creation of Economic Develop Plan

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution, Attachments A & B

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Related County Contract #:	Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N) N	Requested Date:
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RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN

1998 - 26 1/13/98: Approved 6 - 0. Brown abstained. Res. #98-002

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):

Res # 98002

2 SPONSORED BY: Kathy Sutter
3 PROPOSED BY: Kathy Sutter
4 INTRODUCTION DATE: 1/13/98

2 RESOLUTION NO. 98-002

3 IN SUPPORT OF SPONSORING AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND THE CREATION OF A
4 WHATCOM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOP PLAN

5 WHEREAS, on March 22, 1994 the Whatcom County Council approved Resolution 94-
6 025, which states the Whatcom County Council's policy to encourage enhancement of a jobs-
7 based economy; and,

8 WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes a need for a coordinated effort among public
9 and private efforts to stimulate and support economic development in Whatcom County; and

10 WHEREAS, the County is the appropriate entity to lead such an effort.


11 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby
12 requests that Attachment A, letter of request for information be sent to the agencies and
13 organizations listed in Attachment B.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Whatcom County shall work with the appropriate
15 agencies and organizations to sponsor a county-wide economic summit in 1998, the purpose of
16 which will be to produce an outline for an economic development plan for Whatcom County.

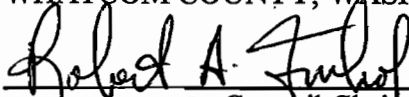
17 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County will provide the necessary leadership to
18 finalize, adopt, and implement an economic development plan for Whatcom County by June 1999.

19 APPROVED this 13 day of January, 1998.

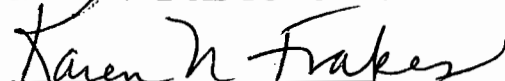
20 ATTEST:

21 
22 _____
23 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


24 _____
25 Robert A. Imhof, Council Chair

24 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

25 
26 _____
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

ATTACHMENT A

January 14, 1998

Heading

Dear _____,

It is certainly no secret to anyone that Whatcom county has been and continues to be in questionable financial times. The efforts to enhance the County's bottom line have been effected by the GMA, the lengthy adoption process of the Comprehensive Plan, international exchange rates, dramatic infrastructure needs, and so on. While we can all complain about the economy, the Council has the responsibility to provide public services regardless of the economic climate.

It is that role and responsibility that requires us (the Council) to more effectively measure, inventory, define, and enable the economic development process for Whatcom County. In response to this task, the Council will initially be reviewing your individual part of the process, and then sponsoring an Economic Summit to fully investigate the realities of our community's economic potential and restraints.

Our purpose and commitment is to develop a "real" Economic Development Plan for this County that has the capacity to work, to effectively enhance the tax base, and be measured on a positive community impact scale. Your participation in this effort is essential.

The first step toward the goal is a resolution adopted by the Council on January 13, 1998. Its purpose is to put in place the formal process to develop the Economic Development Plan. In order to initiate that process the Council needs to gather information from you, and requests that the information (see attached list) come to the Council Office no later than February 4, 1998 so that it meets the information deadline for our February 10th meeting.

Sincerely,

14

Thank you for your participation in this very important process. Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. Include any additional information you feel will be helpful.

1. By law, what is your agency or organization **allowed** to do (please site authority, such as specific RCW, WAC, etc.)?
2. By law, what is your agency or organization **required** to do (please site authority, such as specific RCW, WAC, etc.)?
3. What are you **willing** to do to further economic development?
4. What resources does your agency or organization have available to devote to economic development?
5. How will you help organize an economic development summit?
6. What do you see as the most pressing issues in regard to economic development?
7. What agencies and organizations are involved with or have an impact on Whatcom County's economy?

We look forward to working with you and rest of Whatcom County to finally implement a plan which will bring economic prosperity to us all.

Sincerely,

ATTACHMENT B

Send to list:

Economic Development Council
Council of Governments
Chamber of Commerce
Port
Public Utility District
Convention and Visitors Bureau