

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2006-149

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/13/06	RECEIVED MAR 13 2006 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	3/14/06	Finance/Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	<i>PK</i>	3-10-06			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT: Resolution in Support of Whatcom County Rapid Border Prosecution Initiative

ATTACHMENTS:

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO	Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

COMMITTEE ACTION:
3/14/06: Forwarded to Council for approval

COUNCIL ACTION:
3/14/06: Approved 7-0

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number: Res. 2006-026

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

SPONSORED BY: Consent

PROPOSED BY: Executive

INTRODUCTION DATE: 3/14/06

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-026

SUPPORT OF WHATCOM COUNTY RAPID BORDER PROSECUTION INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is an international border community that has five ports of entry, including the Peace Arch Port of Entry in Blaine, which is one of the busiest points of entry in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 5 begins on the United States/Mexican Border and passes directly through Whatcom County ending its northern terminus at the United States/Canadian Border; and

WHEREAS, the impact on the criminal justice system from border related crime, captured fugitives, drug trafficking and crimes committed by persons refused entry into Canada is at the heart of the law and justice process; and

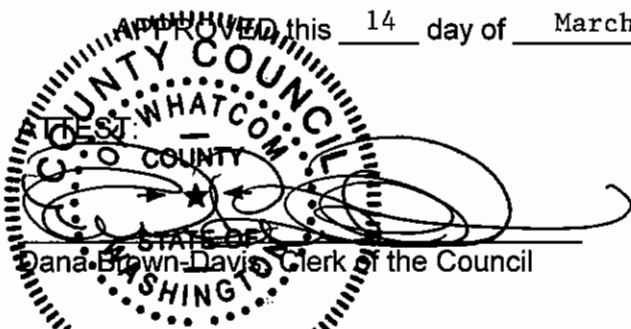
WHEREAS, during 2005 and into 2006 the Rapid Border Prosecution Project has been implemented to move so called "fast track offenders" through the criminal justice system in a more rapid fashion, thus freeing up resources to deal with day to day local issues and find efficiencies in dealing with the impact of border related crime by the transitory population which severely impacts an already backlogged law and justice system; and

WHEREAS, the "Fast Track" program was implemented on July 1, 2005 and has resulted in an average of 64% of guilty please on cases selected for "Fast Track" within two weeks from the date of arraignment; and

WHEREAS, this program has reduced the overall time for all cases to move through the Prosecutor's Office from 217 days to 197 days and has also reduced the average time from charging to sentencing on felony cases from 217 days to 37 days when "Fast Track" is used.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council strongly supports the efforts of the County Executive and his request for a congressionally designated appropriation to allow the continuation of this successful program.

APPROVED this 14 day of March, 2006.



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]
Laurie Caskey-Schrieber, Council Chair