

RESOLUTION NO. 929

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY PROPOSITION NO.
2015-1 JAIL FACILITIES SALES AND USE TAX
FOR THE CITY OF LYNDEN, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, the existing Whatcom County Jail is old, dilapidated, and overcrowded, making it dangerous not only for inmates but also for Correction Officers and staff employed there; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the status quo at the existing County Jail is simply not an option; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden wishes to join the cities of Sumas, Nooksack, Everson, Blaine, and Ferndale in urging the County to proceed with its plan to tear down the existing Jail and build a new one; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden enthusiastically supports programs that can prevent people from becoming incarcerated or re-offending; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new Whatcom County Jail includes space for expanded programs that help rehabilitate and reinforce positive entry back into our community; and

WHEREAS, even with such proactive programs, there will always be crime and the need for a jail to protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, inmates, and those who attend to them, must also be kept safe; and

WHEREAS, hoping for a brighter future with fewer inmates - however that occurs - does not solve the reality that the existing Jail is in desperate condition and must be replaced; and

WHEREAS, each month of delay in building a new Jail adds an estimated \$480,000 to its proposed construction costs; and

WHEREAS, as prudent stewards of taxpayer dollars it is unconscionable to drive up the construction cost of the new Jail due to procrastination; and

WHEREAS, the use of sales tax as the funding mechanism for the Jail is preferable to using property tax because the people who shop and recreate in our communities will help share the cost of a new Jail, thus reducing the burden on Lynden residents; and.

WHEREAS, though the County is responsible for jailing felons, the City of Lynden - like every city in Whatcom County - is responsible for incarcerating its misdemeanants; and

WHEREAS, for decades the City of Lynden has relied on the County for jail services and the arrangement has served this City well; and

WHEREAS, every community has individuals who must be incarcerated and local governments needs a safe, humane place to put them; and,

WHEREAS, the economy of scale achieved by building a central County facility that can house criminals from all Whatcom County communities is undeniable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden appreciates the fact that the County has undertaken this initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Lynden Washington as follows:


SECTION 1: That the Lynden City Council does support Whatcom County's Proposition No. 2015-1 Jail Facilities Sales and Use tax and;

SECTION 2: That the Lynden City Council encourages its residents to vote "yes" on November 3, 2015, in favor of passing the Whatcom County's Proposition No. 2015-1 Jail Facilities Sales and Use tax and;

SECTION 3: That the Lynden City Council encourages all communities in Whatcom County to support the Whatcom County Proposition No. 2015-1 and;

SECTION 4: This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, IN FAVOR
AGAINST, AND SIGNED BY THE MAYOR THIS 5 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015.




MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY