

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ADOPTING CHAPTER 2.88 OF THE BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE**

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a serious problem within Bellingham and Whatcom County affecting all social, economic and ethnic groups; and

**WHEREAS**, current efforts to address the problem could benefit from the coordination and cooperation needed to achieve maximum impact; and

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach should be implemented county-wide to significantly reduce the incidence of domestic violence;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:**

**Section 1.** A new chapter 2.88 of the Bellingham Municipal Code is adopted to read as follows:

**2.88 Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence**

**2.88.010 Created.**

The Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is created.

**2.88.020 Purpose.**

The purpose of the Commission is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.

**2.88.030 Functions.**

The functions of the Commission shall be:

1. Develop and implement a coordinated comprehensive domestic violence plan that is monitored, evaluated and updated on a regular basis.
2. Promote coordination and increase collaboration of institutions, systems and services as they respond to offenders, victims, children and others who have been impacted by domestic violence.
3. Increase community awareness and understanding about domestic violence.
4. Serve as an advisory board to local government agencies and the community with respect to domestic violence issues.
5. Develop community benchmarks for monitoring domestic violence and prepare an annual report.
6. Serve as a community forum on domestic violence and create a mechanism for identifying issues, concerns, needs and resources.

**2.88.040 Composition**

The Commission shall consist of up to 27 members. The following officials shall be designated government representatives on the Commission:

1. Whatcom County Prosecutor
2. Whatcom County Sheriff
3. Bellingham Police Chief
4. Bellingham City Attorney

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
76-6903

5. Bellingham Municipal Court Administrator
6. Whatcom Superior Court Administrator
7. Whatcom County Director of Health and Human Services
8. Whatcom County Public Defender
9. Whatcom County Director of District Court Probation
10. A designated representative of DSHS/DCFS
11. One chief executive officer from the cities in Whatcom County other than Bellingham selected by a majority vote of the eligible chief executive officers
12. One Police Chief from the cities in Whatcom County other than Bellingham selected by majority vote of the eligible police chiefs.
13. One Superintendent from the school districts in Whatcom County selected by majority vote of the eligible superintendents.

Additional members shall be selected by the Mayor and the County Executive from among members of the community who have an interest in, or are impacted by, domestic violence. The Mayor and County Executive shall each appoint seven members to include the following:

1. One domestic violence victims service provider.
2. Two human services providers, including, but not limited to, educators, victim or offender services, clergy or religious leaders and early childhood education providers.
3. One representative of a major employer.
4. One health care provider.
5. Two representatives from the community at large.

In selecting members for the Commission the Mayor and County Executive shall attempt to reflect the racial, ethnic, economic and geographical diversity of the community and to insure the participation of at least one survivor of domestic violence.

Terms of the non-government members, and of those government members selected by majority vote of designated groups, shall be four years; provided that the terms of those non-government members first appointed shall be staggered so that two members shall be appointed for one year, four members shall be appointed for two years, four members shall be appointed for three years and four members shall be appointed for four years. Members may be reappointed. Members may be removed by the appointing authority. Each member shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed.

**2.88.050 Organization-Meetings**

Meetings of the Commission shall be open and accessible to the public. The Commission shall determine its own meeting schedule but shall meet at least once each quarter. Written records of meetings, resolutions, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be public. The Commission shall adopt its own rules and procedures which shall be public record. The City and County shall provide such staff and funding for the Commission as they deem necessary for the Commission to perform its duties. The Commission shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.

**Section 2. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall be effective December 1, 1998.

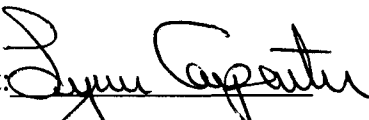
**PASSED BY COUNCIL THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1998.**

  
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Council President

APPROVED BY ME THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1998.



Mayor

Attest:   
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

Published: 11-21-98

**CITY OF BELLINGHAM WASHINGTON**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

1998.11.084

**COUNCIL BILL NUMBER:**

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**AGENDA BILL NUMBER:**

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**3RD/FINAL READING:**

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**CC: LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR  
LEGAL SECRETARY  
ITSD (TO SCAN)**

**OTHER:** Linda JSS  
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