

January 10th, 2023

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Brian Heinrich
Deputy Administrator
City of Bellingham
bmheinrich@cob.org

RE: City Compliance with the Keep Washington Working (KWW) Act

Dear Deputy Administrator Heinrich,

I write this letter on behalf of the Immigration Advisory Board's Federal Contact Data Subcommittee. I write to follow up on our in-person conversation from August 2022 regarding the City of Bellingham's responsibility as it relates to What-Comm dispatch.

The IAB urges the City to pursue and advocate for adding language to the What-Comm interlocal agreement requiring law enforcement partners to abide by the KWW Act. We believe this addition to the interlocal agreement is important as What-Comm dispatch is operated by City of Bellingham employees. Dispatchers are a vital part of the interlocal agreement and they act as hub through which most interlocal law enforcement communications occur. If a What-Comm law enforcement partner is not abiding by the KWW Act, these violations could flow through What-Comm dispatchers opening up the City to liability.

The Immigration Advisory Board seeks to partner with the City in crafting language for the What-Comm interlocal agreement. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions.

Sincerely,

Holly Pai
Federal Contacts Subcommittee
COB Immigration Advisory Board