

Statement from Holly Pai sent 1/16/2024

Hi Jackie,

I am not able to attend the meeting tonight as I am on a plane back to the States. However, I wanted to go on record and express that I am against suspending the IAB.

Like Councilmember Stone, I am frustrated by the relationship between the City and the IAB and I am in agreement that there are changes that need to be made by both the IAB and the City in order for the Board to be successful. A suspension of the IAB will not address any of the issues and will not move forward any important work.

I also disagree strongly with the timing of the ordinance for the suspension because I was hopeful that there could be a fresh start between the IAB and the new Administration.

Finally, I want it in the public record that I believe the City is potentially violating the Keep Washington Working Act and that the City has been advised by the IAB of this issue multiple times over the last year. Whatcom County is the focus of investigations by several civil rights orgs and possibly other governmental bodies. The IAB believes the City is at risk of being liable in a KWW violation due to the close working relationship with BPD, WHATCOMM, and DHS.

Thank you,

Holly Pai