

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING BELLINGHAM INITIATIVE MEASURES 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-03, AND 2021-04 AND ENCOURAGING CITIZENS OF BELLINGHAM TO VOTE NO ON EACH INITIATIVE MEASURE

WHEREAS, a sufficient number of qualified electors of the City of Bellingham proposed four separate initiative bills to the City including initiative 2021-01, which would expand tenant rights to include rental relocation assistance; initiative 2021-02, which would prohibit the use of facial recognition technology and predictive policing technology; initiative 2021-03, which would prohibit recipients from using city funds to discourage unionization efforts; and initiative 2021-04, which concerns employee rights for hourly-wage and gig workers including hazard pay of \$4 per hour for all on-site workers during a declared state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter and BMC 1.02.070 provide that the City Council may choose to enact the bill, reject the bill, reject the bill and propose another bill dealing with the same subject, defer the bill to the voters, or take no action on the bill; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.04.330 requires that the City Council pass a resolution on or before August 3, 2021 to allow an initiative to be placed on the general election ballot in November 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Council adopted four separate resolutions on August 2, 2021 deferring each of these initiative bills to the voters on the November 2021 general election ballot; and

WHEREAS, Council members have heard from community members that its act of deferring these initiative bills to the ballot was interpreted by some as support for these initiative measures; and

WHEREAS, Council supports the intent of the initiative sponsors underlying each of the initiative measures; and

WHEREAS, Council notes that many of the terms, concepts, and aspects of the initiative measures are difficult to interpret or admit multiple possible interpretations; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes that each initiative measure may have unintended fiscal and legal consequences for the City, the local business community, or both; and

WHEREAS, the Charter states that an initiative bill becomes effective ten days after the official canvass of the ballots pursuant to law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council may not amend, revise, or repeal an initiative bill approved by the voters within two years after the effective date thereof; and

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WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that the City Attorney's Office, rather than the initiative sponsors, would be responsible for defending any initiative bill adopted by the voters; and

WHEREAS, Council wants to ensure that there is no ambiguity for Bellingham voters with respect to the Council's opinion regarding these measures, as drafted, and submitted to the voters,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

The Bellingham City Council hereby expresses its opposition to Initiative 2021-01, Initiative 2021-02, Initiative 2021-03, and Initiative 2021-04, and encourages the citizens of Bellingham to vote "No" on each of these initiative measures on the November 2, 2021, ballot.

PASSED by the Council this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Council President

APPROVED by me this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the City Attorney

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