

KITTITAS COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

- AGENDA DATE:** September 5, 2017
- ACTION REQUESTED:** Consider approval of a resolution declaring all Kittitas County boards, committees, and commissions operating under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners subject to the Open Public Meetings Act requirements.
- BACKGROUND:** In response to concerns raised by the Kittitas County Records Management Committee and the Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office, the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners requested a legal opinion addressing the legal implications for County boards, committees, and commissions in regards to the Open Public Meetings Act. The Prosecutor's office researched the pertinent legal issues and provided an opinion and matrix to the County analyzing which of those organizations are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act and why or why not at a Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on August 15, 2017. At that meeting, the Board determined it was in the best interest of the County to impose a mandate declaring all boards, committees, and commissions subject to the Open Public Meetings Act rather than analyze the nuances of each and every board to determine individually or on a case by case basis whether compliance with the Act is necessary.
- INTERACTION:** The Prosecutor's office was directed to draft the attached resolution.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Consider the following issues before authorizing the resolution declaring all Kittitas County boards, committees, and commissions operating under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners subject to the Open Public Meetings Act requirements:
- 1) Should the blanket declaration include all County internal boards, committees, and commissions or should exclusions apply to certain internal entities not subject to OPMA requirements under State law? Currently, we have committees operating to aid in the flow of County business that have procedures in place allowing for

rather quick and timely responses to certain business requests for the varying departments (ex: Website Content Request through IT Committee) that will need to be eliminated to effectuate compliance with this resolution requiring an overhaul of certain procedures and delaying responses to certain requests until the next available open meeting.

- 2) Providing a delayed effective date, to allow for proper notification and a transition period for compliance.
- 3) The need to train these organizations regarding OPMA requirements and compliance issues.
- 4) Whether the added encumbrances of a blanket mandate outweigh a more individualized approach.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution Declaring All Kittitas County Boards, Committees, and Commissions Operating Under the Direction of the Board of County Commissions Subject to the Open Public Meetings Act Requirements.

LEAD STAFF:

Stephanie Hartung, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney