



# Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District

Peter Browning, Second District

Lisa Janicki, Third District

February 6, 2023

RE: Criminal Justice Training Commission Regional Campus

To Whom It May Concern,

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) has identified the need to expand the ability of the commission to create more Basic Law Enforcement Academy Classes (BLEA) to reduce mandatory training waitlists, while ensuring that training quality is maintained. Expanding to a regional campus structure is also recommended, as this would accelerate the process for training and certifying new recruits, helping agencies overcome staffing vacancy challenges.

A regional campus approach would diminish the geographic barriers many trainees face to attend training. Regional campuses would mean more officers would be able to participate in training since many do not have the time or ability to travel far. Additionally, funding more trainings and establishing new training locations would increase trainee numbers and would help with retention, since officers could be trained within the communities that they already have ties to.

Law enforcement in Skagit County can work with the WSCJTC to develop a regional training campus that is supported by local resources, with the goal to expand the training curriculum as part of a multi-tiered strategic plan. This plan would incorporate the implementation of the first stages of a regional campus, building upon the concept of bringing additional trainings to northwestern Washington.

Based on its location, it would make sense for Skagit County to act as a central hub for the five counties that make up this region. We envision that this centralized training hub could serve not only our regional partners but could eventually serve other Washington State partners in order to help realize WSCJTC's broader goals.

We are committed to a long-term partnership with the WSCJTC that would develop a locally based training program that meets the goals of both the WSCJTC, the northwest region, and our fellow law enforcement partners across the state of Washington. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Commissioner