



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, today's modern 911 system is often taken for granted as a resource that's just always been there, however, it was only 50 years ago this week that the first emergency 911 call was completed in Haleyville, Alabama demonstrating the strength of an integrated Emergency Medical Service system, and,

**WHEREAS**, here in Whatcom County, these behind-the-scenes heroes work at the Prospect Communications Center and the Whatcom Communications Center (WHAT-COMM) answering 911 calls and directing emergency resources for the county, and

**WHEREAS**, these centers dispatch Fire and Emergency Medical Services units through an integrated communications system and both centers are staffed with highly trained first responders that answer calls, offer telephone CPR instructions and direct responding units to fires, medical emergencies, HAZMAT emergencies and all calls involving law enforcement matters, and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County Dispatchers are the first layer of response for the 911 system and dispatchers must quickly identify the emergency; assess the danger of the situation for field responders as well as assess the type of emergency, which requires multi-tasking and communication skills as well as the ability to quickly assess the situation and offer the correct advice to the caller and first responders, and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating National Telecommunicators week is oriented towards understanding how the 911 system has improved the Nation's EMS response network as well as contributing to millions of lives saved by these first responders, and,

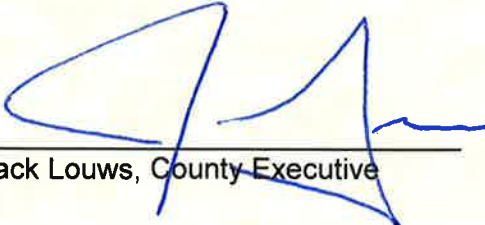
**WHEREAS**, in conjunction with the Whatcom County Emergency Medical Service system (WCEMS) we would like to recognize the dedication to public service by all the dispatchers who work tirelessly alongside all the first responders in Whatcom County serving the residents who call 911, and without this critical link, the Emergency Medical System would not be the success it is today.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, do I, Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, hereby proclaim April 8-14, 2018 as

### ***National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week***

in Whatcom County, and I encourage all citizens to join me in recognition of and appreciation for all Whatcom County Dispatchers for their service to our County.

Signed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

  
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Jack Louws, County Executive

