



**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07**

**Amending the 2019-2020 Unified Fee Schedule
For Food Establishments and Taverns**

WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Unified Fee Schedule was adopted by County Council through Ordinance No. 2018-076; and

WHEREAS, this Unified Fee Schedule established 2019-2020 permit fees for food establishments and taverns; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Ordinance No. 2007-070 states, "...upon a showing of sufficient justification, the County Executive may add new fees or adjust fees set by the Unified Fee Schedule by way of Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has required extraordinary measures to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee's order to close all but "essential" businesses has prevented some businesses permitted by the Whatcom County Health Department from operating; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee's subsequent "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order has further reduced patronage for some businesses permitted by the Whatcom County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, affected businesses are important to the economic health of our community; and

WHEREAS, affected businesses may be unable to pay for operating permit renewal due to loss of revenue; and

WHEREAS, business closures will result in a loss of jobs and a loss in revenue that funds essential County services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE HOME RULE CHARTER FOR WHATCOM COUNTY, I HEREBY ORDER, EFFECTIVE APRIL 21st, 2020, THAT:

- (1) Whatcom County will not be collecting permit renewal fees under UFS 1546 (taverns); 8461 (simple menu food establishments); 8466 (moderate menu food establishments); 8468 and 8470 (complex menu food establishments); and 8471 (food establishment bars and additional kitchens) until July 1, 2020.

Permit renewal deadlines will be extended by ordinance to reflect the above fee deferment. (Note: the extension period in the ordinance might or might not extend deferral of fees beyond July 1, 2020).

- (2) **(The above businesses / All food establishments)** shall have any late fees originating from items UFS 1513 and 1514 of the 2019-2020 Unified Fee Schedule waived if incurred during the period from February 1, 2020 to the date of this order.
- (3) No additional late fees for **(the above businesses / all food establishments)** will be charged until after February 28, 2021.
- (4) Regardless of late fee waivers, permits more than 60 days overdue are considered lapsed.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF April, 2020.



Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive