



## **BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL COURT**

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**Darlene L. Peterson**

**Court Administrator**

### **AUGUST 2016 SENTENCING SUMMARY REPORT**

August was the sixth month of electronic monitoring through our contracted provider, Friendship Diversion Services (FDS). This program was implemented as a part of Bellingham's Reduction Incarceration Challenge (**BRIC**), to help address the request from the Whatcom County Sheriff to reduce the City of Bellingham's inmate population in the Whatcom County Jail.

Since the City began contracting with FDS, **102** defendants have successfully completed serving sentences on electronic monitoring rather than serving their sentences in jail. They have served a total of **1,758 days**. The City of Bellingham was charged **\$5,205.20** by FDS to supplement the cost of their services for indigent defendants. The cost to the City would have been **\$172,284.00** had these defendants served their sentences in the Whatcom County Jail. The highest number of defendants being supervised at one time has been **16**.

To reduce the number of inmates in the Whatcom County Jail, **76** defendants were transferred to the Yakima Correction Center through August of 2016. This number includes pre-trial inmates as the City is now required by the Whatcom County Sheriff to remove inmates booked into Whatcom County Jail once they have had their initial court hearing. Inmates are currently being transferred to Yakima on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The City began holding video hearings with inmates being held in Yakima in July of this year. Pre-trial hearings are held weekly on Thursdays at the Bellingham Municipal Court in Courtroom #1 at 9:45 a.m. These hearings are open to the public for observation.

Darlene L. Peterson