



Office of the City Attorney
City of Bellingham

August 2, 2021

Whatcom County Auditor Diana Bradrick
311 Grand Avenue
Suite 103
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Explanatory Statement for City of Bellingham Initiative 2021-01

Dear Madame Auditor,

The City Attorney's Office has drafted the following explanatory statement regarding City of Bellingham Initiative 2021-01 to be included in the local voter's pamphlet:

The Washington State Legislature has adopted the residential landlord-tenant act which outlines the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. State law authorizes municipalities, including the City of Bellingham, to adopt legislation that would require property owners and the municipality to provide up to \$2,000 in rental relocation assistance to low-income tenants in limited circumstances. This measure would create a new rental relocation assistance program in Bellingham requiring landlords to provide three months of rental relocation assistance to all tenants regardless of their income level if the landlord terminates the lease without cause or increases rent by more than 8%.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please let know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Erb".

James Erb
Sr. Asst. City Attorney