



**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 2021-02

Dear Madame Auditor,

The City Attorney's Office has drafted the following explanatory statement regarding City of Bellingham Initiative 2021-02 to be included in the local voter's pamphlet:

This measure concerns the use of facial recognition technology and predictive policing technology. This measure would prohibit the City of Bellingham, including the Bellingham Police Department, from acquiring or using facial recognition technology or predictive policing technology. It would also prohibit the City from contracting with third parties to use these types of technologies on behalf of the City. It would also prohibit the retention and the use of any data generated using these technologies. While the Bellingham Police Department is not currently using any facial recognition technology, the Department has used predicative policing technology.

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, appearing to read "James Erb".

James Erb  
Sr. Asst. City Attorney