CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 22-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR A CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION ("CJTC") REGIONAL POLICE TRAINING CAMPUS IN CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

WHEREAS, public safety and criminal justice professionals and first responders are essential to providing public safety; and

WHEARAS, for the past several years, law enforcement agencies across the county have experienced an increase in law enforcement resignations and retirements and a decrease in law enforcement professional applications and new hires; and

WHEREAS, many law enforcement agencies in our region estimate large percentages of their staff will become eligible for retirement within the next biennium and as a result anticipate an increased rate of retirements to continue for some time; and

WHEREAS, the need to recruit new law enforcement professionals in Southwest Washington creates an increased demand for CJTC's Basic Law Enforcement Academy ("BLEA") training; and

WHEREAS, in July 2022, Governor Jay Inslee announced his vision to create regional police academies in order to attract quality people within a 50-mile radius who can commute to and from an academy every day and who will then serve their own communities upon graduation; and

WHEREAS, creating a regional public safety training academy in Clark County strongly enhances the region's ability to equitably recruit and train future peace officers from Clark County and nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, removing the barrier for new applicants of living five months away from their families in order to attend the BLEA increases opportunities for those who may be single parents or the sole care provider to vulnerable family members; and

WHEREAS, a local regional public safety academy improves community engagement and outreach efforts by increasing equitable access to all, and by providing more opportunities for females and persons from our underrepresented communities of color to become local peace officers; and

WHEREAS, as Southwest Washington communities continue to grow and our population density increases, a long-term investment from the State of Washington ensures a strong CJTC relationship; and

WHEREAS, a Southwest Washington CJTC footprint also enhances capacity for local public safety agencies to provide state mandated training, such as I-940 requirements, and de-escalation training; and

WHEREAS, a Southwest Washington contemporary regional training facility portrays a strong vision of investment in community safety and careers for those who choose a life of service to others.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Battle Ground, Washington as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby expresses its support for a Criminal Justice Training Commission regional police training campus in Clark County, Washington.

DONE IN OPEN MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON HELD THIS 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022.

Approved:

Philip Johnson, Mayor

Attest:

Kaylee Cody, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Kirk Ehlis, City Attorney