



Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
Rebecca Mertzig, Chief of Police

Sara Ullman,

The purpose of this memo is to affirm my involvement in the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) Bellingham Reentry Center residential screening committee.

I've been a commissioned law enforcement officer with the Bellingham Police Department for 29 years and currently serve as a detective sergeant, assigned to the Major Crimes Unit. I've worked in that capacity since January 2023. This is a 3-year assignment previously held by Sgt. Jon Gutierrez from 2020-2022.

As was the case with my predecessor, the Major Crimes Unit supervisor is tasked with being a participating member of the Bellingham Reentry Center screening committee. About once a month, DOC prepares a PowerPoint presentation of work release applicants, disseminates it to committee members for review, and then we meet as a group to discuss our concerns and recommendations.

Prior to the meeting, I query each work release applicant for any prior documented contacts with the Bellingham Police Department and share that information with members of the screening committee for their awareness. Other factors that are taken into consideration include: criminal history, plans for employment, support of family/friends in the community, potential conflicts with others in the facility, and safety concerns for any victims who live nearby.

I feel as though my input and recommendations are valued and given "substantial weight" by the Bellingham Reentry Center residential screening committee. It has been my experience that DOC is complying with HE Condition 5C as it relates to the conditional use permit for the facility at 1125/1127 N. Garden Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgt. Craig Johnson  
Bellingham Police Department