

Resolution in Opposition to Border Militia Groups

1 **WHEREAS** a just society that respects the civil rights of all people should be the goal of
2
3 all Whatcom County residents, and
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6 **WHEREAS** the Whatcom County Democrats (WCDCC) work to uphold and protect
7 human and civil rights, and are committed to including and representing all people,
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10 **WHEREAS** the activities of self-appointed militia or vigilante groups or individuals
11 with limited training and no legal authority present a potential danger to the safety and
12 well-being of society and all members of that society who might become the victims or
13 inadvertent targets of such activities, and
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15 **WHEREAS** the existence and activities of vigilante groups or individuals in other
16 regions have created fear, an atmosphere of racism and violence, and increased
17 suspicion, intolerance and even hate in those regions, and
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19 **WHEREAS** the presence of vigilante border militia groups, such as the Minuteman
20 Project's operation on our nation's northern and southern borders, can create a negative
21 image for our region and harm our local economy as occurred in the State of Idaho, and
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23 **WHEREAS** Whatcom County, the State of Washington, and the U.S. Government all
24 have policies that are opposed to the casual use of ad hoc Militia groups to replace or
25 augment the duties of duly authorized law enforcement organizations, and that such
26 unregulated, undisciplined and untrained militia groups acting without adequate
27 supervision and training are known to have adversely impacted the lives and liberties
28 of citizens and other civilians in the U.S.;

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30 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Democrats oppose
31 any effort to deputize, commission, finance or otherwise encourage the presence of self-
32 appointed vigilante groups or individuals within our County who might take into their
33 own hands the legal authority vested in our law enforcement officials and those of the
34 federal and state governments; and
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36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Democrats express once again
37 our absolute commitment to a safe and secure environment where individual civil
38 rights are respected by all.
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41 (Date Passed 04/08/2006 by Whatcom County Democrats)
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