

From: Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Inquiring if Whatcom County is contracting with Sarbanand Farms/Munger Bros. to provide quarters for flood victims
Date: November 23, 2021 at 8:31:25 AM PST
To: Bill Elfo <BElfo@co.whatcom.wa.us>, John Gargett <JGargett@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Cc: Tyler Schroeder <Tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Doug Chadwick <DChadwic@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Yes Bill, I agree.

I think is very unreasonable suggestion and unknowingly may hurt the very people they are trying to help!

Thanks!

	<p>Satpal S Sidhu BS BSEE MBA Fulbright Scholar Whatcom County Executive</p> <p>Phone: 360 778 5200 ssidhu@whatcomcounty.us 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham WA 98225</p> <p><i>This email is subject to disclosure through the Public Records Act.</i></p>
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From: Bill Elfo
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 8:30 AM
To: John Gargett <JGargett@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Cc: Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Tyler Schroeder <Tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Doug Chadwick <DChadwic@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Fwd: Inquiring if Whatcom County is contracting with Sarbanand Farms/Munger Bros. to provide quarters for flood victims

Just as an FYI only - I'm not certain what she is referring to but I am unaware of any founded allegations or debarments - I appreciate the rapid offer and generosity you described yesterday and the need to ensure emergency sheltering for those impacted

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: dbobena@yahoo.com
Date: November 22, 2021 at 7:01:03 PM PST
To: Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Cc: Tyler Schroeder <Tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Mike Hilley <MHilley@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Bill Elfo <BElfo@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Subject: Inquiring if Whatcom County is contracting with Sarbanand Farms/Munger Bros. to provide quarters for flood victims

Reply-To: "dbobena@yahoo.com" <dbobena@yahoo.com>

Dear County Executive Sidhu:

I had recently been alarmed to see a particular post in one of the numerous social media groups trying to care for our community members who meet challenges in finding social service resources in Whatcom County. The post shared that Munger Bros. was offering housing, formerly used for farmworker housing, to shelter people during the floods. When I had a discussion with the woman who shared this information, they were unaware and disturbed about how Sarbanand Farms had mistreated, and then displaced farmworkers who Munger Bros. had brought here in 2017 on H-2A visas far from their families in other countries.

I have been alerted today to the fact that Whatcom County is potentially working to contract with Munger Bros./Sarbanand Farms to utilize their worker housing for those displaced by the floods.

I am asking in this email today:

Is it true that Whatcom County is potentially arranging to provide funding for Munger Bros. to use their farmworker housing for people who have been displaced?

If it is true the County is arranging to provide funding, have you been involved in these arrangements?

If it is true the County is arranging to provide funding, and you have not been involved in these arrangements, what agencies or individuals have been involved in these arrangements?

If it is true the County is arranging to provide funding, can you explain why there has been no consultation about this with Community to Community Development or other farmworker advocates who had to provide extensive effort and many forms of direct aid to the farmworkers Sarbanand Farms mistreated and/or displaced?

Munger Bros./Sarbanand Farms never issued a public apology for their many actions that were harmful to farmworkers, instead they swallowed up considerable community resources that were needed in order to hold them accountable. Among many injustices they induced, their actions actually forced many workers to be taken in by a neighboring property owner in Sumas, because Sarbanand would no longer house them at their farm. Thus, I cannot condone our County engaging with them in any manner that would permit them to have individuals, in any way, in their charge who are in crisis or in vulnerable circumstances.

I look forward to receiving your answers to my questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dena Jensen
Birch Bay, WA

dbobena@yahoo.com