



RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, STATING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE CITY'S AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1'S PROPOSITION NO. 1, WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE CREATION OF THE SOUTH SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, many fire departments in Washington are facing the challenges of maintaining existing levels of service in light of legal limitations on property taxes as well as changing community needs, population growth and additional demands for service; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 52.26 RCW authorizes two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions to form a regional fire protection service authority in accordance with the procedures established in that statute; and

WHEREAS, there are currently ten regional fire authorities ("RFAs") located throughout the State of Washington, and many other jurisdictions are considering whether to create new RFAs or to annex into existing RFAs; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the City of Lynnwood and Snohomish County Fire District 1 formed a Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee (the "Planning Committee") comprised of City of Lynnwood ("City") and Snohomish County Fire District No. 1 (the "District") elected officials to study and review the creation of an RFA as a means of consolidating the City and District fire departments so as to more efficiently serve the citizens residing in both jurisdictions while maintaining or improving existing levels of service; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Committee deliberated for approximately seven months and solicited input from members of the community, other local governments, labor representatives and business representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Committee recommended creation of a "South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority" ("RFA") and drafted a business plan to govern and finance its operation (the "RFA Plan"); and

WHEREAS, formation of the RFA would eliminate the duplication associated with operating two separate fire departments and would achieve cost savings and efficiencies through consolidation; and

1 WHEREAS, faster responses are possible across the 16.95 miles of shared city-district
2 boundaries once the two existing service areas are combined and artificial service area
3 boundaries are dissolved. More efficient deployment may be achievable with combined existing
4 resources that will cut travel times to reach emergencies scenes sooner; and
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6 WHEREAS, the RFA Plan was unanimously adopted by the District’s Board of Fire
7 Commissioners and was approved by the City of Lynnwood City Council; and
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9 WHEREAS, the RFA will be governed by elected officials residing within the City and the
10 District; and
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12 WHEREAS, the RFA Plan provides that the RFA will be funded by a uniform property tax
13 levy of up to \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation for all properties located within the City
14 and District; and
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16 WHEREAS, the RFA’s property tax levy of \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation will
17 replace the District’s fire property tax levy; and
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19 WHEREAS, because the financial obligation to provide fire services will transfer to the
20 RFA if formed, the City intends for its 2018 collectible taxes to be reduced by the amount which
21 would be saved from the adopted 2017/2018 budget to provide a city-funded fire department;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, the flexibility of an RFA allows for other governmental agencies to “annex”
25 into an existing RFA, thereby providing a platform to further enhance regionalization of fire and
26 emergency medical services in Snohomish County; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the adopted RFA Plan provides for the City and District to assign to the RFA
29 existing interlocal agreements that the District and the City have with the following
30 jurisdictions: the City of Edmonds, the City of Mountlake Terrace, the City of Brier and the City
31 of Mukilteo, and the RFA will commence providing services to these cities as expressly
32 described in such interlocal agreements commencing on the RFA’s effective date of October 1,
33 2017. No changes to such interlocal agreements were discussed or contemplated by the RFA
34 Planning Committee, City or District during the planning process; accordingly, any changes
35 would need to be mutually agreed upon between the RFA and the affected city as set forth in
36 the applicable interlocal agreement; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the City Council and the District’s Board of Commissioners have each
39 approved a Joint Resolution submitting a ballot proposition to the voters in their respective
40 jurisdictions at the August 1, 2017 election, asking the voters to decide whether the RFA should
41 be formed and the RFA Plan approved (“Proposition No. 1” or the “RFA ballot proposition”);
42 and
43

1 WHEREAS, Proposition No. 1, as it will appear on the August 1, 2017 election ballot,
2 states:

3
4 Proposition No. 1

5 The City Council of the City of Lynnwood and the Board of Commissioners of
6 Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 1 have adopted a Joint Resolution
7 approving the South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority
8 Plan ("Plan") concerning the creation of a Regional Fire Protection Service
9 Authority.

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11 This proposition would approve the Plan and create the South Snohomish
12 County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority ("Authority"), effective October 1,
13 2017, to provide fire protection and emergency medical services in the City and
14 District. The Authority will be funded by property tax (\$1.50 per \$1,000 of
15 assessed value) and other sources identified in the Plan. The City and District
16 levy capacities would be reduced to offset the Authority's levy.

17
18 Should the Plan to create a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority be
19 approved?

20 Yes []

21 No []

22
23 WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 42.17A.555, the City Council may express collective support
24 for a ballot proposition; and

25
26 WHEREAS, as required by RCW 42.17A.555, the notice of the City Council meeting on
27 May 12, 2017 included the title and number of the RFA ballot proposition and invited members
28 of the public to comment on the RFA ballot proposition; and

29
30 WHEREAS, at the May 22, 2017 City Council meeting, the City Council held a public
31 hearing and received public comment on this Resolution and the RFA ballot proposition, and
32 afforded all persons wishing to speak the equal opportunity to express opposing views; and

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34 WHEREAS, having considered the RFA ballot proposition, the Lynnwood City Council wishes to
35 express its collective support for the RFA ballot proposition;

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37 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON,
38 RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

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40 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Lynnwood formally expresses its support of
41 Proposition No. 1, "Creation of South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority,"
42 as the Proposition appears on the August 1, 2017 ballot.

1
2 ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Lynnwood this XX day of XXXXXXXX, 20XX, and
3 approved by the Mayor on XX day of XXXXXXXX, 20XX.

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6 APPROVED:

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9 _____
10 Nicola Smith, Mayor

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14 ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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16
17 _____
18 Sonja Springer, Finance Director

Rosemary Larson, City Attorney

19
20
21 ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
22 PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
23 PUBLISHED:
24 EFFECTIVE DATE:
25 ORDINANCE NUMBER: