



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire & Building Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager
From: Jeff Blake, Fire Chief
Date: October 2, 2007
Subject: Medic One Levy Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council consider the attached resolution following a public hearing.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system provides life-saving medical assistance to all residents of King County. It is recognized as one of the best emergency medical services programs in the country, and its response model has garnered an international reputation for innovation and excellence in out-of-hospital emergency care. It serves over 1.8 million people throughout King County and, on average, responds to a medical emergency in the region every three minutes. In 2005, Medic One/EMS responded to over 162,000 calls for assistance.

The patient and program services of the Medic One/EMS system are funded by a Medic One/EMS levy that expires December 31, 2007. To continue providing this service in 2008 and beyond, a new strategic plan, defining the roles, responsibilities and programs for the system, and a levy rate to fund these approved functions, needed to be crafted.

In early October 2005, the King County EMS Division initiated a region-wide effort to review the issues and options facing our system, and develop recommendations for the next strategic plan. This process brought together Stakeholders that represented the full range of Medic One/EMS providers - urban and rural fire departments and districts, paramedic providers, emergency physicians and medical directors, labor representatives, finance specialists, dispatch agencies and private ambulance companies.

Elected officials and appointees from large cities, suburban cities, and fire districts joined the discussions later in the process to advise the group on political aspects of the new strategic plan and recommendations. In total, these Stakeholders spent one year reviewing the needs of the Medic One/EMS system, the financial and programmatic policies necessary to meet these needs of the regional system.

In October 2006, regional representatives developed consensus around the future funding and operational plans for a 2008-2013 Medic One/EMS levy, unanimously endorsing a levy proposal that they deemed appropriate and prudent.

This document summarizes the results of these discussions, and includes the Stakeholders' approved proposals:

- A six-year Medic One/EMS levy at \$.30 per \$1,000 Assessed Value (AV);
- A financial plan that provides full funding for Advanced Life Support (ALS)/ paramedic service and identifies ALS as a funding priority;
- The funding of an anticipated 3.0 new paramedic units over the span of the six-year levy period to maintain existing levels of services in anticipation of moderate growth in call volumes and anticipated increases in the age of the population in the region;
- Provision of paramedic service to outlying areas;
- A funding increase for Basic Life Support (BLS) services, tying BLS financial support to incidents where BLS most closely supports paramedic services;
- *Medic One/EMS 2008 - 2013 Strategic Plan*
- Sustained and enhanced funding in anticipation of expected demands for the Core Regional Services/Programs that support the Medic One/EMS system;
- Continued emphasis on Medic One/EMS Strategic Initiatives designed to improve patient care, manage growth in paramedic services, and develop system efficiencies and cost savings;
- Development of a reserve fund to address unanticipated service or demand needs, potential emergencies, and/or significant changes in strategic and financial plan assumptions; and
- Placement of this proposal on the November 2007 General Election ballot.

The ability to provide emergency medical services using a regional EMS property tax levy was passed by the Washington State legislature in 1979. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 84.52.069 allows jurisdictions to levy a property tax for the purpose of providing emergency medical services.

As identified above, the 2008 – 2013 Medic One/EMS Strategic Plan is a consensus document of staff, and elected official in King County developed over an 18 month planning period. The Strategic Plan is comprehensive analysis of the needs, options, and direction necessary to provide emergency medical services throughout King County, including Kirkland, through the year 2013.

RESOLUTION R-4671

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND SUPPORTING THE COUNTY-WIDE 2008-2013 MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LEVY, PROPOSITION NO. 1, ON THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007, GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.

WHEREAS, the existing Medic One/EMS Levy will expire at the end of the year 2007; and

WHEREAS, King County is seeking voter authorization of a six-year Medic One/EMS levy of up to \$0.30 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for the period of 2008 through 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Medic One/EMS Levy supports the valuable and renowned regional Medic One/EMS program; and

WHEREAS, a region-wide effort to thoroughly review the future needs of the emergency medical services system began in October of 2005 and involved the full range of Medic One/EMS Stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, such analysis included the impacts that a specific levy type, length, and rate might have on the regional system and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland was a significant participant throughout these discussions and was represented as a Stakeholder on both the Technical Stakeholder and the Elected Official Committees; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2006, Stakeholders developed consensus around the future funding and operational plans for a 2008-2013 Medic One/EMS levy and unanimously endorsed a six-year, \$0.30 per thousand dollars of assessed value levy proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City Council, after considering comment at a duly noticed public hearing, hereby supports the County-Wide 2008-2013 Medic One/Emergency Medical Services Levy, Proposition No. 1, on the November 6, 2007, General Election Ballot.

Section 2. The City Council hereby urges citizens to vote yes on the Medic One/Emergency medical Services Levy, Proposition No. 1 on November 6, 2007.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Signed in authentication thereof this _____ day of _____, 2007.

MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk