

RESOLUTION R-5413

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND ACCEPTING THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP REPORT AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONDUCT FURTHER PUBLIC OUTREACH AND RETURN TO THE COUNCIL WITH ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PLACE TWO MEASURES ON THE BALLOT TO IMPROVE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RESPONSE TIMES AND ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

1           WHEREAS, In 2011, the City Council ("Council") engaged  
2 the services of Emergency Services Consulting International  
3 ("ESCI") to conduct an organizational review of the Fire  
4 Department of the City of Kirkland ("City"). Since 2012, Fire  
5 Department staff has worked with other City departments and the  
6 City Manager's Office to implement certain ESCI  
7 recommendations, including through the budget process, and  
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9           WHEREAS, On February 19, 2019, the Council adopted the  
10 2019- 2020 City Work Program which ranked "exploring a  
11 potential ballot measure in 2020 to fund Fire Station  
12 modernization and enhanced operations to further the goal of  
13 Public Safety" as its number one priority, and  
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15           WHEREAS, On September 17, 2019 the Council adopted  
16 Resolution R-5386 authorizing the City Manager to engage a  
17 Community Safety Advisory Group ("ComSAG") to meet for the  
18 duration of October 2019 through February 2020 to recommend  
19 to the Council ballot measure options on investments and  
20 financing, and  
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22           WHEREAS, The ComSAG recommends placing two  
23 measures on the November 2020 ballot, and  
24

25           WHEREAS, The first measure consists of a 30-year excess  
26 levy to fund the cost of relocating and building a new fire station  
27 near Totem Lake, building a new training center near fire  
28 station 24, providing seismic and other renovations to fire stations  
29 21 in Forbes Creek, 22 in Houghton, and 26 in north Rose Hill to  
30 improve firefighter health and safety, and purchasing a second  
31 ladder truck, and  
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33           WHEREAS, The second measure consists of a permanent  
34 levy lid lift to fund the hiring of twenty-four new firefighter/EMTs  
35 to provide a dedicated aid car at fire station 22 in Houghton, fully  
36 staff fire station 24 in north Juanita, provide daily 12 hour  
37 dedicated patient transport during peak hours, and fund five new  
38 firefighter/EMTs to improve response times throughout the City,  
39 and  
40

41 WHEREAS, The ComSAG's recommendations used an  
42 estimated annual operating cost to fund hiring twenty-four new  
43 firefighter/EMTs as \$3,900,000, and annual debt service for  
44 capital as \$3,300,000 during ComSAG deliberations, and  
45

46 WHEREAS, The City Manager has engaged an  
47 interdepartmental "recommendation review team" to refine  
48 ComSAG operating costs and project costs and sequencing, which  
49 may impact the overall totals, and  
50

51 WHEREAS, The capital investments would be financed by  
52 a 30-year excess levy, and the operating investments would be  
53 financed by a permanent levy lid lift, and  
54

55 WHEREAS, Council received a preliminary update of the  
56 ComSAG's recommendation at the March 17, 2020 Council  
57 Meeting, and  
58

59 WHEREAS, Since the ComSAG recommendation in  
60 February, the City proclaimed an emergency to combat the  
61 COVID-19 pandemic and has been grappling with the escalating  
62 social and economic impact of the virus on the community, and  
63

64 WHEREAS, The capital and operating elements in the  
65 proposed ComSAG recommendation would have significantly  
66 improved the City's response to COVID-19, and the budget  
67 challenges created by the economic impacts of the outbreak  
68 curtails the City's ability to fund any of these additional public  
69 safety investments without a voter approved revenue source,  
70 and  
71

72 WHEREAS, The City's leadership team re-evaluated the  
73 ComSAG recommendation in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and  
74 recommend the City continue to explore the measures, and  
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76 WHEREAS, At the April 7, 2020 Council meeting, Council  
77 reviewed the ComSAG's full recommendation and may take action  
78 to place these separate measures on the November 3, 2020 ballot  
79 at any subsequent Council meeting but no later than July 21,  
80 2020; and  
81

82 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kirkland  
83 do ordain as follows:  
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85 Section 1. The City Council hereby accepts the Community  
86 Safety Advisory Group report.  
87

88 Section 2. The City Manager is hereby directed to seek additional  
89 input from the Community Safety Advisory Group to determine if  
90 any of their recommendations on investments or timing of ballot  
91 dates have changed due to the COVID-19 emergency and

92 current or anticipated economic conditions, and to conduct  
93 additional public outreach.

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95 Section 3. The City Manager is further directed to develop  
96 options for consideration that would limit the propositions'  
97 impact on seniors, disabled veterans, and other people with  
98 disabilities as allowed by law.

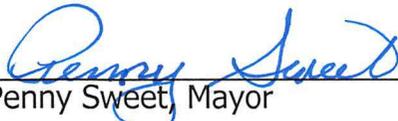
99  
100 Section 4. The City Manager is further directed to develop  
101 options for consideration to enhance emergency preparedness,  
102 build or replenish stockpiles, and make other investments in light  
103 of lessons learned during the City's COVID-19 pandemic  
104 response to date.

105  
106 Section 5. The City Manager is further directed to return to the  
107 Council with ordinances reflecting the ComSAG's  
108 recommendations and authorizing ballot measure propositions  
109 for the Council's consideration on ballot measure elements to  
110 improve response times and enhance firefighter health and  
111 safety with the goal of placing these measures before the voters  
112 of the City of Kirkland at the November 3, 2020 general election.

113

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 21st day of April, 2020.

Signed in authentication thereof this 21st day of April, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk