



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date December 12, 2024

Originating Department Vice Chair, Tracy Furutani

Contact Person Vice Chair, Tracy Furutani

Title Resolution 24-1992/Concerning Shoreline Fire Department and Northshore Fire Department Proposition 1 creating a Regional Fire Authority

Legislative History

- First Presentation December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting
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Attachments:

1. Resolution 24-1992
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Executive Summary

The Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments have adopted a Joint Resolution approving the Shoreline Regional Fire Authority Plan to create a Regional Fire Authority. The Proposition approving the Regional Fire Authority is scheduled for voter consideration during the Special Election on February 11, 2025, and will be voted on by voters within the Shoreline Fire District and the Northshore Fire District

Background

After many decades of working cooperatively to provide fire and emergency medical services in the Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Kenmore communities, the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments Boards of Commissioners jointly prepared and approved a plan to formally create and merge fire, rescue, and emergency medical operations of both fire districts into a Regional Fire Authority ("RFA") under chapter 52.26. RCW.

If voters approve Proposition 1 by a 60% favorable majority, the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments will create the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority ("SHFD") as an RFA effective May 1, 2025. The SHFD will operate under a single governing board consisting of ten members initially filled by the seated fire Commissioners of the two fire districts.

The SHFD will be funded by a fire benefit charge and a property tax not to exceed \$.70 per thousand of assessed valuation, which will be levied in 2025 and collected in 2026. The SHFD property tax and fire benefit charge will replace the regular property tax levies and existing fire benefit charges of the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments.

RCW 42.17A.555(1) authorizes the City Council to take action to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot measure so long as (a) the agenda includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the public and councilmembers are afforded an approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

The Shoreline Regional Fire Authority could improve the level of service for the citizens of Lake Forest Park

Staff Recommendation

Consider adopting Resolution 24-1992 to support or oppose Proposition 1, creating the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority.