



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6923  
May 5, 2026  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6923: EPSCA Successor Interlocal Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Authorize the City Manager to execute the Successor Interlocal Agreement with the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency Joint Board (EPSCA) as substantially shown in Exhibit 1 to AB 6923.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Police
<b>STAFF:</b>	Michelle Bennett – Chief of Police Jeff Magnan – Police Commander
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Successor Interlocal Agreement with EPSCA 2. Interlocal Agreement with PSERN
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the City Manager to execute the Successor Interlocal Agreement (see Exhibit 1) with the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) which formally authorizes the creation of the EPSCA Joint Board.

- The Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) was established in 1992 through an interlocal agreement among the founding cities.
- EPSCA was responsible for owning, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to connect local 911 dispatch centers to the regional 800 MHz emergency radio network.
- In early 2023, member agencies transitioned from the EPSCA radio network to the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN), a modernized regional system designed to enhance interoperability, resiliency, and coverage.
- PSERN is a countywide network and is run by a Board of Directors that has four voting members (EPSCA, Valleycom, King County, and Seattle) and two non-voting members representing King County fire and police departments.
- On October 23, 2023, the EPSCA Board of Directors voted to dissolve the organization and terminate the original interlocal agreement. As part of the transition and dissolution process, the Board established a “Joint Board.”

- The Joint Board (see Exhibit 1) is the successor administrative entity to EPSCA for the limited purpose of facilitating the Principals’ performance of their rights and obligations under the PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement, including the appointment of a PSERN Executive Board member and alternate, as well as the exercise of any other shared rights and responsibilities established under that agreement. The PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement is attached as Exhibit 2.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) was established in 1992 through an interlocal agreement (ILA) among the founding cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Redmond. The City of Issaquah joined in 1993, followed by additional agencies that participated as subscriber members. EPSCA was responsible for owning, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to connect local 911 dispatch centers to the regional 800 MHz emergency radio network.

For more than three decades, EPSCA provided critical emergency radio network services and systems management to its member agencies. During this time, all Mercer Island Police and Fire radio communications—including dispatch operations—were transmitted through the EPSCA-managed system.

In 2015, King County voters approved funding for the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network System (PSERN). In 2020, the EPSCA cities, together with King County and the Cities of Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Tukwila, entered into the “Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network Operator Interlocal Cooperation Agreement” (see Exhibit 2), which created a separate governmental agency, under authority of Chapters 39.34 and 24.06 RCW, to assume ownership and control of the PSERN System following the construction and full acceptance of such system.

In early 2023, EPSCA member agencies transitioned to PSERN, a modernized regional system designed to enhance interoperability, resiliency, and coverage.

Because the EPSCA radio communications system is no longer in use, there is no reason for EPSCA to exist as a separate legal entity. However, the members of EPSCA must maintain a contractual relationship outlining their process for jointly selecting a member to serve on the PSERN Board and for keeping EPSCA members informed on and involved in PSERN activities. On October 23, 2023, the EPSCA Board of Directors voted to dissolve the organization as a nonprofit corporation and terminate the original interlocal agreement. As part of the transition and dissolution process, the Board established a “Joint Board” structure. The Joint Board framework acknowledges the PSERN Interlocal Agreement and reflects the intent of the member agencies to adopt a successor interlocal agreement. This successor agreement will formally conclude EPSCA’s operations and establish a governance structure for selecting and representing the former EPSCA member agencies within the PSERN system.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

The PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement (see Exhibit 2, Section 4.2.1.3), establishes the composition of the PSERN Agency Executive Board. This provision authorizes representation from the EPSCA Cities by designating one Principal to serve on behalf of all EPSCA Principals. The selected Principal is granted the authority to participate with other PSERN Principals as a member of the Executive Board.

The approval of the EPSCA successor Interlocal Agreement (Exhibit 1) provides a formal and legal mechanism to select the EPSCA voting member on PSERN from this point forward. Under this Interlocal, the parties agree

that the existing EPSCA agency will be dissolved and instead EPSCA will be reestablished as a Joint Board, rather than as a separate legal entity. Further, the EPSCA board agrees it will work together to jointly select the ESPCA representative to the PSERN Board.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Successor Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency Joint Board, substantially in the form presented in Exhibit 1 and to approve and execute any future amendments to the ILA that are determined to be de minimis or non-substantive and in the best interest of the City.