



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** August 4, 2025  
**To:** City of St. Helens Mayor and City Council  
**From:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
**Reviewed:** Ashley Wigod, City Attorney  
**Subject:** Sunset Provision for Public Safety Fee

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### Chapter 13.30 Public Safety Fee

- Chapter 13.30 Public Safety Fee was adopted to establish a fee to repay 30-year bond financing borrowed to construct a new Police Station.
- The bond financing is approximately \$12.6 million with annual debt service costs of around \$750,000 per year.
- The City of St. Helens currently imposes a Public Safety Fee of \$10.30 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) on utility bills.
- 100% of the Public Safety Fee collected is currently used to pay the annual bond financing costs.
- Revenue from this fee is critical because it has been committed to the repayment of debt service on the current Police Station project.
- If the Public Safety Fee is repealed, and the City loses this source of revenue, significant cuts to essential services, including Parks and Recreation, Library Services, Public Works, and the Police Department, would be necessary, in order to make payments on the existing debt.
- Once the debt service is paid off, the Public Safety Fee could terminate without the corresponding need to reduce the budget for other City services.
- City Council has proposed to add a sunset provision to the Public Safety Fee to terminate the Public Safety Fee once the debt service is paid off.
- SHMC 13.30.040 is proposed to be amended as shown below to implement this proposal:

### 13.30.040 Creation and imposition of public safety fee.

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(1) The City Council hereby establishes and imposes a public safety fee to be paid by the responsible party of any developed property within the corporate limits of the city **and such fee shall expire on June 30, 2052.**