

TO: City Council
FROM: Brian Hurley, Fire Chief
DATE: January 17, 2023
SUBJECT: Resolution No. R2023-001, in support of the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority proposal

1) Recommended Action:

Conduct the duly-noticed public hearing and adopt Resolution R2023-001, expressing the collective decision to support Proposition No. 1 concerning the formation of a regional fire authority to be known as the Olympia Tumwater Fire Authority, and adoption of its Plan for governance, operations, and financing, including imposition of a benefit charge, which will be presented to the voters in conjunction with the April 25, 2023, Special Election.

2) Background:

The Regional Fire and Emergency Services study completed in 2019 recommended formation of a Regional Fire Authority. In May 2021, Tumwater and Olympia entered into an interlocal agreement to study the formation of a Regional Fire Authority. A RFA Planning Committee was comprised of three council members from each city as well as the fire chief and labor representative from each jurisdiction. The planning committee met twice a month to formulate the plan document to guide implementation of the proposed RFA. A joint city council meeting was held on October 25, 2022 to review the proposed plan as well as several "Town Hall" meetings. The RFA Planning Committee met on November 14, 2022 and after a public hearing voted to recommend adoption of the Olympia Tumwater RFA Plan by the City Council. On December 6, 2022 Joint Resolution R2022-014 was adopted by the Tumwater and Olympia City Councils approving the Olympia-Tumwater Regional Fire Authority Plan and placing the issue before voters at a special election on April 25, 2023.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority: Provide and Sustain Quality Public Services
Goal: Complete RFA Planning Work

4) Alternatives:

☐ Do not adopt the resolution

5) Fiscal Notes:

RFA funding includes property tax not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (offset by a corresponding City property tax reduction) and a six-year fire benefit charge not to exceed 60% of the RFA operating budget. The impacts to the City have been assessed through this process. While the formation of the RFA provides long-term financial benefits to the City, there will be shorter term adjustments that will be needed along with having accelerated the City's need for an eventual levy-lid lift, which has been compounded by dramatic increases in the assessed valuation of the City.

6) Attachments:

A. Resolution No. R2023-001