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**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:**
Resolution requesting Executive discontinue EMS Interlocal Agreement

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**SEPA review required?** ( ) Yes ( ) NO

**SEPA review completed?** ( ) Yes ( ) NO

**Should Clerk schedule a hearing?** ( ) Yes ( ) NO

**Requested Date:**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:** (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Requesting that the County Executive draft and send a notification letter to the City of Bellingham to discontinue the interlocal agreement regarding Emergency Medical Service provision

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Related County Contract #:**

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number:**

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County’s website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).
RESOLUTION NO. ________

REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DRAFT AND SEND A NOTIFICATION LETTER TO THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO DISCONTINUE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVISION

WHEREAS, in 2006 the emergency response agencies, along with Whatcom County government and the City of Bellingham (City), signed an agreement (contract No. 200611026) to support a cooperative countywide Emergency Medical Services response and provision plan; and

WHEREAS, since that time, opportunities for paramedic training and implementation outside of the Bellingham Fire Department have been deterred and delayed by actions taken by City employees; and

WHEREAS, the training and activation of paramedics to staff the 5th Medic One unit have been far more costly and time-consuming because of the actions of City administrators and City employees; and

WHEREAS, a common goal of all signatory agencies in the 2005 EMS plan was to maintain a unified EMS system, but the City's administration of the system has been contrary to the intent of the EMS plan, resulting in discord, delay and confusion; and

WHEREAS, the most recent statements of protest by the City regarding training of a Point Roberts paramedic indicate a lack of responsiveness and general disregard by City administrators to the needs and well-being of Whatcom County citizens outside of Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Fire Commissioners Association has clearly stated in its Resolution 2010-01 that it supports the County Council and Executive in initiating changes to the current Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bellingham for providing Emergency Medical Services; and

WHEREAS, many other fire department officials have recommended that the County Council and Executive move to renegotiate the existing interlocal agreement with the goal of an improved agreement and development of a strategy for EMS delivery of service for 2012 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, a 'model' of a single, unified countywide EMS system must be developed with a countywide administrative component which allows the following:

A. Training and implementation of new paramedics, as needed with population and call volume growth, that does not carry a single-agency (City) employment or union membership requirement unless appropriate for a given fire district based upon its existing employment practices.

B. Assignment of paramedic responder duties, as well as transport of patients at all 'levels' of response including Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS), in a manner that can be served by any responding fire agency in Whatcom County as agreed upon through a coordinated and centrally-administered plan.
C. An EMS system granting equal input and cooperation between and among all county fire districts and city fire departments

D. A ‘component’ approach to administration of a system which may consist of EMS responder unit components, as well as a training component, an invoicing and collections component, and other operational components as needed

E. System-wide unification through an active EMS Administrative Board oversight, with regular reporting and accountability requirements directed to the Whatcom County Council as needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby requests the County Executive prepare and send a letter of notification, as provided in the current EMS interlocal agreement between the county and the City of Bellingham, notifying the City of the county’s action to discontinue the current interlocal agreement, effective three calendar years from January 1, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council calls upon all fire districts and city fire departments in Whatcom County to immediately initiate discussions and negotiations with the goal of crafting an EMS response system more reflective of the values, responsiveness, participation, efficiency and well-being of all citizens of Whatcom County.

APPROVED this _____ day of __________, 2010.

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Sam Crawford, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]

Civil Deputy Prosecutor