

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2010 - 305 A

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:		11/30/2010		12/7/2010	SCOTW & Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:	<i>Bud A</i>	11-30-10			
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Resolution requesting Executive discontinue EMS Interlocal Agreement

ATTACHMENTS:

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
 SEPA review completed? () 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.

5
6 **RESOLUTION NO.** _____

7
8 **REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DRAFT AND SEND A NOTIFICATION**
9 **LETTER TO THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO DISCONTINUE THE INTERLOCAL**
10 **AGREEMENT REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVISION**

11
12 **WHEREAS**, in 2006 the emergency response agencies, along with Whatcom County
13 government and the City of Bellingham (City), signed an agreement (contract No.
14 200611026) to support a cooperative countywide Emergency Medical Services response and
15 provision plan; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, since that time, opportunities for paramedic training and implementation
18 outside of the Bellingham Fire Department have been deterred and delayed by actions taken
19 by City employees; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the training and activation of paramedics to staff the 5th Medic One unit
22 have been far more costly and time-consuming because of the actions of City administrators
23 and City employees; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, a common goal of all signatory agencies in the 2005 EMS plan was to
26 maintain a unified EMS system, but the City's administration of the system has been
27 contrary to the intent of the EMS plan, resulting in discord, delay and confusion; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, the most recent statements of protest by the City regarding training of a
30 Point Roberts paramedic indicate a lack of responsiveness and general disregard by City
31 administrators to the needs and well-being of Whatcom County citizens outside of
32 Bellingham; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Fire Commissioners Association has clearly stated
35 in its Resolution 2010-01 that it supports the County Council and Executive in initiating
36 changes to the current Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bellingham for providing
37 Emergency Medical Services; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, many other fire department officials have recommended that the County
40 Council and Executive move to renegotiate the existing interlocal agreement with the goal of
41 an improved agreement and development of a strategy for EMS delivery of service for 2012
42 and beyond; and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, a 'model' of a single, unified countywide EMS system must be developed
45 with a countywide administrative component which allows the following:

- 46
47 A. Training and implementation of new paramedics, as needed with population
48 and call volume growth, that does not carry a single-agency (City)
49 employment or union membership requirement unless appropriate for a given
50 fire district based upon its existing employment practices
- 51 B. Assignment of paramedic responder duties, as well as transport of patients at
52 all 'levels' of response including Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life
53 Support (ALS), in a manner that can be served by any responding fire agency
54 in Whatcom County as agreed upon through a coordinated and centrally-
55 administered plan

- 1 C. An EMS system granting equal input and cooperation between and among all
2 county fire districts and city fire departments
3 D. A 'component' approach to administration of a system which may consist of
4 EMS responder unit components, as well as a training component, an
5 invoicing and collections component, and other operational components as
6 needed
7 E. System-wide unification through an active EMS Administrative Board
8 oversight, with regular reporting and accountability requirements directed to
9 the Whatcom County Council as needed;

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council hereby
11 requests the County Executive prepare and send a letter of notification, as provided in the
12 current EMS interlocal agreement between the county and the City of Bellingham, notifying
13 the City of the county's action to discontinue the current interlocal agreement, effective
14 three calendar years from January 1, 2011; and
15

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council calls upon all fire
17 districts and city fire departments in Whatcom County to immediately initiate discussions
18 and negotiations with the goal of crafting an EMS response system more reflective of the
19 values, responsiveness, participation, efficiency and well-being of all citizens of Whatcom
20 County.
21

22 **APPROVED** this _____ day of _____, 2010.
23

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26 **ATTEST:**

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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28
29 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Sam Crawford, Council Chair

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31
32 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

33 
34 _____
35 Civil Deputy Prosecutor