

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bellevue, South Puget Sound Fire Defense Board; and Central Region Fire Defense Board, for participation of the Bellevue Fire Department in the South Puget Sound Fire Coordinating Group.

Jay Hagen, Fire Chief, 452-6892

Mark Anderson, Acting Deputy Chief of Support Services, 452-6892

Bellevue Fire Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Resolution will authorize an Interlocal Agreement for participation of the Bellevue Fire Department in the South Puget Sound Fire Coordinating Group so that the Bellevue Fire Department can develop, train, and certify various personnel for the unique specialties and certifications required for various types of wildland and all-hazards incidents.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10391

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

This agreement allows the Fire Department to develop, train, and certify firefighters working for the city within various specialties recognized under the guidelines set forth by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Currently, the city is dependent on staff within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to review documents, training attendance rosters, grant certification and then provide proof of completion. Not only is this process tedious and slow, but the Fire Department is at the mercy of staff within the local offices of the DNR – who frequently are deployed to fires and hazardous incidents all across the state, which delays the ongoing training and certification of our experts.

The city previously signed a similar agreement in 2016 that previously allowed the Fire Department to utilize the standards outlined in the previous ILA to develop, train, and certify various personnel for the unique specialties and certifications required for working within a wildland fire. The previous agreement has expired, and the new ILA renews this past practice.

The wildland firefighting industry has developed a robust set of standards for the training and certification of wildland firefighters, recognized among all wildland firefighting agencies. These agreements help set the standards for the training and certification of various subject matter experts. This ILA lays out the process required for our wildland firefighters to meet those national standards within agreed upon area resources and processes.

Many of the fire departments across King County have executed the same ILA, so as to facilitate the training and certification of their wildland experts.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The execution of this interlocal agreement lies within the Fire Department's current policies and practices. No new policies are needed for this action.

Fiscal Impact

There are no direct fiscal impacts associated with execution of this interlocal agreement. The current staff, along with the existing infrastructure required for tracking other types of Fire Department training and certifications already exist and are in place daily. The costs associated with training firefighters remain the same, however we are no longer dependent on outside agencies to receive approval and receive certification.

The potential exists for minimal savings associated with the elimination of staff costs associated with the current process that relies on outside agencies to accept departmental documentation and provide needed certifications.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bellevue, South Puget Sound Fire Defense Board; and Central Region Fire Defense Board, for participation of the Bellevue Fire Department in the South Puget Sound Fire Coordinating Group.
2. Do not approve the Resolution and provide alternative direction.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Copy of proposed ILA (SPS FDB Final)
Proposed Resolution No. 10391

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Copy of the previous ILA from 2016 (South Puget Sound Fire Coordinating Group May 2016)