

March 19, 2018

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Ordinance amending the Bellevue City Code to create a new Chapter 3.35 specific to the Bellevue Fire Department; and establishing an effective date.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impacts of Bellevue City Code amendments are generally anticipated to be minimal and will be met with current budget and staffing levels.

STAFF CONTACTS

Todd Dickerboom, Interim Fire Chief, 452-6895

Fire Department

Chad Barnes, Assistant City Attorney, 452-2061

City Attorney's Office

POLICY CONSIDERATION

RCW 35.22.280(22) and (23) vests cities with the authority to ensure public safety through the control and prevention of fires.

Pursuant to RCW 19.27.031 the City has adopted the 2015 International Fire Code which defines certain functions and authority for the Bellevue Fire Department.

RCW 35A.13.090 provides that on recommendation of the city manager, the council may create such departments and offices as necessary and may determine the powers and duties of each department or office.

BACKGROUND

The Bellevue Fire Department was created in 1965 and has continually operated as an administrative unit within the City since its establishment.

In 1972, the City created the Department of Emergency and Safety Services codified as Chapter 3.33. The Fire Department and Police Department were incorporated as divisions of the Department of Emergency and Safety Services and made responsible for crime suppression, fire control, and emergency medical services among other duties.

In 2015, Ordinance 6255 reorganized emergency management functions and created the Emergency Management Program, Chapter 3.98. The duties of the Fire Department and Police Department were not defined in Chapter 3.98. As part of the reorganization, Chapter 3.33 was repealed.

For purposes of accreditation with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International the Bellevue Fire Department has historically noted it was a division of the Department of Emergency and Safety

Services, which also defined its mission. However, because Chapter 3.33 was repealed it is necessary to define the functions and structure of the department to meet accreditation standards. The Bellevue Fire Department was last accredited in 2013 and is currently in the process of renewing its accreditation. The Bellevue Fire Department also maintains a Class 2 rating from the Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau, placing Bellevue in the top 1 percent of the nearly 47,000 rated departments in the U.S.

The proposed Ordinance establishes the Bellevue Fire Department as a recognized administrative department within the structure of the City by creating a new Chapter 3.35. This is the administrative structure used for other City departments such as Civic Services (Chapter 3.36), Utilities (Chapter 3.41) and Human Resources (Chapter 3.47).

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Ordinance becomes effective on March 29, 2018.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance amending the Bellevue City Code to create a new Chapter 3.35 specific to the Bellevue Fire Department; and establishing an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

MOTION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6410 amending the Bellevue City Code to create a new Chapter 3.35 specific to the Bellevue Fire Department; and establishing an effective date.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Ordinance No. 6410

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A