

CLEARANCES		Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.:	County Council	10/8/2003	<b>RECEIVED</b>  <b>OCT 07 2003</b>  <b>WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	10/7/2003	Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Budget:					
Executive:					

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution supporting Proposition 1 - Levy for Emergency Medical Services

**ATTACHMENTS**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Related County Contract #:

Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N) N

Requested Date:

Resolution supporting Proposition 1 - Regular Property Tax Levy For County-Wide Emergency Medical Services

**RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN**

2003 - 27 C 10/7/2003: Approved 7-0, Res. #2003-060

*Related File Numbers:*

*Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):*

R2003-60

**Proposed by: McShane, Nelson**  
**Sponsored by: Consent**  
**Introduction Date: October 7, 2003**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2003-060**

**SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 1 – REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR  
COUNTY-WIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, over the past 29 years, the Whatcom County fire service, and the Whatcom Medic One paramedic ambulance transport service provided by the Bellingham Fire Department, have served this community with basic and advanced life support services; and

**WHEREAS**, this system is viewed nationally as a state of the art emergency medical services system, with strong medical oversight, advanced medical training and procedures, dedicated first responders and experienced paramedics that have touched the lives of tens of thousands of city and county residents; and

**WHEREAS**, this system was evaluated in a recent emergency medical services strategic planning process which envisioned continuation of an integrated and seamless system of emergency medical response and transportation that strives to provide high quality care that is; timely and responsive, of high quality and compassionate, cost-effective and affordable, and sustainable and achievable; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past four years the Whatcom County Fire Chiefs and Fire Commissioners Associations worked closely together with the City of Bellingham, and formally endorsed maintaining the current fire service based and integrated EMS first response and Medic One transport program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County should continue to assume joint responsibility, together with cities and fire districts, for assuring the provision of integrated pre-hospital emergency medical services throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the future demand for emergency medical services is forecast to continue to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, the available sources of revenue have been negatively impacted by recent changes in federal Medicare reimbursement regulations and state law; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services are essential and should be afforded a stable and discrete funding base; and

**WHEREAS**, the state legislature, through RCW 84.52.069, has recognized the needs and concerns described above, and has provided the mechanism for achieving a stable funding source for the provision of such emergency medical services; and

**WHEREAS**, the emergency medical services strategic plan recommends as the top priority instituting an emergency medical services levy to provide this stable funding source; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to assure such a provision of services, it is both necessary and appropriate that an additional regular property tax of up to 38.5 cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation be levied as provided for in Proposition 1 – Regular Property Tax Levy for County-wide Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council urges the passage of Proposition 1 – the creation of a county-wide EMS levy, and urge all Whatcom County voters to vote yes on the proposition.

**APPROVED** this 7th day of October, 2003.

ATTEST:



Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dan McShane, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Civil Deputy Prosecutor