

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM APPROVING A COUNTYWIDE BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR A LEVY TO FUND A COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2017, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022, PURSUANT TO RCW 84.52.069**

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Emergency Medical System (EMS) Oversight Board was formed in 2014 to provide general business oversight to Whatcom County's EMS organization;

**WHEREAS**, facing dwindling reserves that will be exhausted by 2017 and increasing costs, the board appointed an EMS Funding Committee to examine and recommend funding options and cost efficiencies;

**WHEREAS**, the funding committee found that the Whatcom County EMS system faces growing demand, increased costs, and flat funding such that without significant changes the system will have to reduce EMS service; and

**WHEREAS**, among other findings and recommendations, the funding committee recommended pursuit of an EMS levy under RCW 84.52.069 at a level that will be sufficient to cover the costs associated with the recommendations in its report and sufficient to eliminate City and County general fund contributions while maintaining the sales tax and transport fees;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:**

**Section 1.** The City of Bellingham supports the Whatcom County EMS Funding Work Group Recommendations prepared and submitted to the EMS Oversight Board in March 2016 and supports placement of a ballot proposition on the ballot in the 2016 general election.

**Section 2.** The City of Bellingham hereby approves, pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, submission to the voters of a ballot proposition for a countywide additional regular property tax levy of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide Emergency Medical Services.

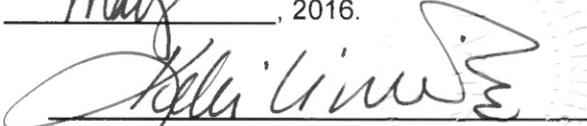
**Section 3.** Council requests that the city administration work with the County to incorporate the recommendations of the EMS Funding workgroup into an interlocal agreement.

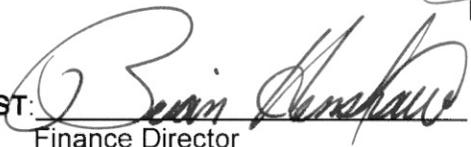
**PASSED** by the Council this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2016.

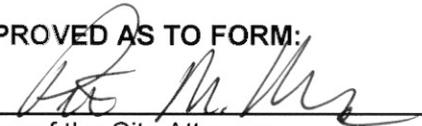
City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-778-8270

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

APPROVED by me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney

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City Attorney  
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