

Ordinance No. _____

**CREATION OF FIRE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND DISSOLUTION OF
CENTRAL VALLEY AMBULANCE AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Skagit County Commissioners have the responsibility and authority to oversee the long term sustainability and financial viability of the Emergency Medical Services system; and

WHEREAS, a fire-based emergency medical services delivery model provides efficiencies, guarantees coverage across the entire County, and creates cohesion with fire districts; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County will benefit under a fire-based delivery model, with better response coverage, enhanced training and the opportunity to enhance fire districts BLS response system as well as other operational and financial efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Anacortes, City of Burlington, City of Mount Vernon, and City of Sedro-Woolley have the financial and operational autonomy to provide emergency medical services for the area currently covered by the Central Valley Ambulance Authority and have stated their desire in a joint letter to the Board of County Commissioners dated July 17, 2018 (attached) to provide this service beyond their municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County enacted Ordinance number O20090004 creating the Central Valley Ambulance Authority pursuant to RCW 35.21.730; and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Ambulance Authority, operating as a component unit of government does not provide maximum financial and operational autonomy necessary for efficient provisions of emergency medical service; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Skagit County Code 2.52.090, Skagit County Commissioners can dissolve the Central Valley Ambulance Authority with 365 days notice unless it makes specific findings that an earlier dissolution is required.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FINDS
AND ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. It is in the best interest of the citizens of Skagit County to dissolve the Central Valley Ambulance Authority, pursuant to Skagit County Code 2.52.090 and transition to a fire-based EMS delivery model.
2. The Central Valley Ambulance Authority shall cease ambulance service on December 31st, 2018 pursuant to their contract.
3. Central Valley Ambulance Authority shall conclude its winding up of affairs and be dissolved by July 31st, 2019.
4. Central Valley Ambulance Authority Board shall prepare and present a transition and dissolution plan including any financial resources needed to accomplish dissolution.
5. Skagit County will begin coordinating with City of Anacortes, City of Burlington, City of Mount Vernon and City of Sedro-Woolley and other necessary parties to transition into a fire -based EMS system on or before January 1st, 2019.

This ordinance is effective as of July 25th, 2018

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

OPPOSED



Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Attest:

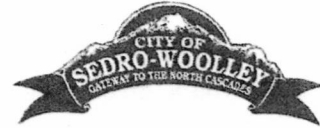
Linda Hanman

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

M. Neil

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



July 17, 2018

Skagit County Commissioners
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



RE: Response to Skagit County request

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in response Skagit County's request dated June 27, 2018 to the cities to develop a fire based plan of delivering EMS in the western and central portion of Skagit County. We believe a fire based approach to EMS is a system enhancement that will increase the level of service available to all residents of Skagit County and together, we can operate a seamless system of coverage. A fire based model, such as the City of Anacortes has operated for decades, allows for the deployment of the right resource at the right time as efficiently as possible, particularly as we move to implement a system integrating effective criteria based dispatch and closest unit dispatch. This system will work within the existing governmental framework, without the need for an additional layer of government.

With the cooperation of stakeholders, we support the concept of discontinuing the Central Valley Ambulance Authority, as a unit component of Skagit County government, and transition to contracting with each of the four cities and Aero Skagit to provide countywide BLS and ALS responses. A fire based approach is the recommendation of all of the various consultants who have studied Skagit County's EMS system since 2001, respects the cities' ambulance ordinances already in place and will result in a stronger, more economically sustainable system.

Mr. Sargent identified five elements of a possible fire based plan as follows:

1. All provider's ability to provide emergency response throughout the western and central portion of the County;
2. A comprehensive transition plan from the current system;
3. Preferential hiring of current EMS providers;
4. Fair and equitable distribution of funds and resource; and
5. The Fire Districts vital role in any EMS system.

We agree that these five elements are critical to moving forward with a fire based model and look forward to working closely with Skagit County to develop a plan that addresses each of these elements in detail.

We look forward to more robust conversation and ask that you continue this vital process by directing the EMS department to work with us to develop a transition plan and begin preparing contracts for the five ALS/BLS providers within the next two weeks. To that end, we are asking

Skagit County Commissioners

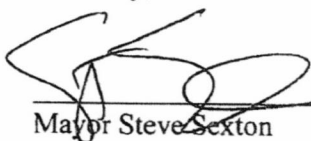
July 17, 2018

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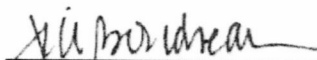
for you to give notice via public declaration that the County will be working with the four cities to implement a fire based EMS model that would replace the services currently provided by CVAA at the end of its current term. We are asking for this action so that we can, in good faith, commit the resources necessary to develop a fire based system that will enhance the services to the citizens of Skagit County.

We appreciate the request from Skagit County to begin this conversation and believe that moving to a fire based response will result in the best level of service for all of Skagit County.

Sincerely,



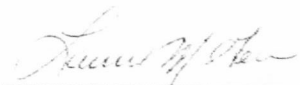
Mayor Steve Sexton
City of Burlington



Mayor Jill Boudreau
City of Mount Vernon



Mayor Julia Johnson
City of Sedro-Woolley



Mayor Laurie Gere
City of Anacortes

cc: Jeff Sargent, EMS Director
City Councils
Fire Chiefs