



We Are E.P.I.C.
Educating **P**romoting **I**nforming **C**onnecting

February 26, 2018

Mayor John Marchione, Chair
Finance Sub-Committee
2020 King Co. Medic One EMS Levy
City of Redmond
PO Box 97010
Redmond, WA. 98073-97010

Sent via Email: mayor@redmond.gov

Dear Mayor Marchione,

At our first Finance Sub-Committee meeting at Renton RFA Station 14, we had a presentation that included projected AV increases over the 2020 EMS Levy period and beyond.

I had asked the question as to whether the projected AV's reflected the loss of taxable properties due to the actions of the State Legislature over the past few years; including the 2018 Legislative session in which more exemptions granting non-profit agencies, businesses and companies tax exemptions, as well as creating tax-exemptions for Seniors, Disabled Veterans, First Responder families for Line of Duty Death and others.

The response from the presenter was that the tax-exempt properties, when reviewed earlier in the current levy deliberations, had a very negligible impact on the AV's for the current and next levy period.

I want to make sure that our Finance committee has directed the county auditor and financial management teams to identify:

1. the current longstanding tax-exempt properties AV amounts in King County and
2. AV of those properties that King County Council has granted tax exemptions to as an economic development incentive currently, in 2019 and during the 2020 EMS Levy period, and
3. the AV of those newly authorized tax- exempt non-profit properties identified in the 2018 Legislative session and
4. the AV of Disabled /Handicapped Senior Citizens, Disabled Workers and Veterans, Families of Line of Duty Deaths of first responders and the other properties or classes that have been granted tax exemption status approved in the 2018 Legislative session and
5. the AV of those tax exempted properties granted by the cities in King County and

King County Fire Commissioner Association
PO Box 901, Vashon Island, Washington 98070

www.firecommissionerskingco.org

President – Commissioner Mark L. Thompson
Mark.Thompson@southkingfire.org

Secretary – Commissioner Julie Hiatt
JulieHiatt@gloful.com

6. that the Auditor and Financial team continue to monitor the Legislature, County Council and City Council authorized tax exemptions throughout the remainder of the current levy period and during the 2020 levy period. Provide a written report, to King County EMS Division on the status of tax-exempt AV amounts and the financial impact on the 2020 King County Medic One/EMS levy and future Countywide EMS Levies.

Many of the consumers of EMS in King County are Assisted Living, Adult Family Homes, Group Homes and Alzheimer/Dementia residential facilities and other tax-exempt occupancies. Many have been a longstanding registered Non-Profit Corporation that did not have tax-exempt status and many are now in the process of registering their business as a Non-Profit, so as to take advantage of now being tax-exempt. The County and cities defer taxation or grant long term tax-exemptions on properties to entice economic development, not recognizing the negative fiscal impact on the agencies that deliver the emergency and public safety services basically for free, other taxpaying citizens and businesses are subsidizing those responses to the non-profit tax-exempt properties.

The AV amounts, provided for our financial sub-committee, to use to base the 2020 King Co Medic One/EMS Levy and future EMS Levies levy rates must be solid and true, in an effort to not build an EMS funding model based on inflated or inaccurate AV's.

The finance sub-committee should see what the real numbers are based on the facts, not assumptions or cursory spot checks, that do not reflect the most recent non-profit tax-exempted properties and the other outright tax- exempt properties or classes. We will be able to develop an EMS Levy funding model that is sustainable and based real AV numbers that do not include the non-profit tax exempt and other classes of tax exempt properties as authorized by the Legislature, King County Council and the cities within King County.

This request will take some time for the County Auditor and Finance team to develop the report that should be presented to the Taskforce Finance Sub-Committee as soon as possible but no later than the Finance Sub-Committee's 3rd meeting, which should be in time to ensure that levy rate figures can be developed from true AV information.

Yours in providing quality emergency services to the citizens of King County

Mark L. Thompson

Mark L. Thompson, President
King County Fire Commissioners Association

Cc: Michele Plorde, Director
King Co EMS Division

Julie Hiatt, Association Secretary

King County Fire Commissioner Association
PO Box 901, Vashon Island, Washington 98070

www.firecommissionerskingco.org

President – Commissioner Mark L. Thompson
Mark.Thompson@southkingfire.org

Secretary – Commissioner Julie Hiatt
JulieHiatt@gloful.com