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ORDINANCE NO. 3464

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY LID LIFT TO INCREASE THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX BY UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$.51, NOT TO EXCEED \$2.85 PER \$1,000 OF TRUE ASSESSED VALUATION SUPPLYING A BALLOT TITLE, STATING THE COUNCIL'S INTENT TO LIMIT ITS EXERCISE OF SAID AUTHORITY TO THAT NECESSARY TO RAISE \$1.7 MILLION CURRENT VALUE ANNUALLY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES, PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITIZENS COMMITTEE AND SEPARATE FUND TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM EXPENDITURE OF THE MONIES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE SAME SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

WHEREAS, restrictions on the revenue of the City coupled with its reliance on property taxes for revenue have severely reduced the City's ability to provide programs and services which have been funded in past budget cycles, and

WHEREAS, the City Council reduced its budget for 2003 by approximately \$2 million, laying off twenty-six employees in order to stay within its anticipated revenue sources, and

WHEREAS, current limitations on tax increases to 1% per year are less than the anticipated rate of inflation, and

WHEREAS, the City Council, despite its best efforts, believes that without additional revenues the ability to provide and protect quality of life within the City which its citizens have come to expect will be impaired, and

WHEREAS, the safety and welfare of its citizens depends upon the preservation of the City's public safety programs and personnel, including its police, fire protection and emergency medical services, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has carefully reviewed its options and believes that an increase in the City's existing authorized tax levy is necessary in order to raise \$1.7 million current value, which is an amount sufficient to provide stable funding to its public safety programs, thereby protecting the City's investment in trained, highly skilled police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians and paramedic personnel, and

WHEREAS, the increase is well within the statutory maximum available to the City under statute, and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to submit this matter to the voters trusting in their wisdom and urging them to participate in order to provide a stable source of funding for these vital services, NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, DO
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In accordance with the authorization of RCW 84.55.050, the City Council proposes to submit to the voters an increase in the amount of property tax which the City is authorized to levy. The proposed increase of 51¢, if approved, would increase the City's maximum approved tax levy to \$2.85 per \$1,000 of true assessed valuation. This amount is below the statutorily authorized maximum and is not an excess levy. Upon authorization, the

current limitation on the City's maximum tax levy would be increased with the levy in 2003, and with collections to begin in 2004. The Council hereby states its intent and commitment to exercise such additional authority to levy an amount not to exceed \$1.7 million current value annually and to utilize such additional revenues for public safety purposes.

A. "Current value" means the economic value of \$1.7 million in 2003 and may be adjusted annually in the budget process to reflect changes in the consumer price index for the Puget Sound Region and other relevant economic factors, at the City Council's discretion in order to maintain its current economic value.

B. "Public safety" means the programs and functions of the City's fire and police departments, including but not limited to police enforcement, parking enforcement, animal control, incarceration and transportation of prisoners including jail contract changes, victim counseling, fire protection, fire code enforcement, the fire marshal, arson investigation and emergency medical service programs.

Section 2. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City for their ratification or rejection, an election to be held on November 4, 2003, in conjunction with the general election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the maximum regular property tax levy of the City should be increased to \$2.85 or less per \$1,000 of true assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The City Council therefore directs and requests the auditor of Snohomish County and its supervisor of elections submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a valid title to read substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION # 1

The City Council of the City of Edmonds has passed Ordinance No. 3464 concerning a levy lid lift pursuant to RCW 84.55.050. This proposition would authorize a levy lid lift of up to 51¢ thereby increasing the total authorized regular tax levy to \$2.85 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Additional property tax revenue from the levy lid lift would be used only for public safety programs and is subject to an annual limit of \$1.7 Million current value. This proposition is not an excess levy and is subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

Section 3. In order to fully inform of and involve the citizens of Edmonds in the budgeting of the funds raised by the authorized levy, the Mayor is requested to appoint a citizen's advisory committee. The committee shall advise the Mayor in the preparation of his annual preliminary budget regarding the use of funds raised through the levy lid lift to insure that such funds are utilized only for public safety purposes and on such other matters as the Mayor may from time to time request their advice.

Section 4. Further, the Mayor is requested to provide in the budget process for establishment of a separate fund to hold and disburse the additional funds raised by the levy lid lift for public safety purposes.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance, being an exercise of a power specifically delegated to the City legislative body, is not subject to referendum, and shall take effect five (5) days after passage and publication of an approved summary thereof consisting of the title.

APPROVED:

MAYOR GARY HAAKENSEN

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

CITY CLERK, SANDRA S. CHASE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

BY _____
W. SCOTT SNYDER

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:	07/25/2003
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:	07/29/2003
PUBLISHED:	08/03/2003
EFFECTIVE DATE:	08/08/2003
ORDINANCE NO. <u>3464</u>	

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 3464

of the City of Edmonds, Washington

On the 29th day of July, 2003, the City Council of the City of Edmonds, passed Ordinance No. 3464. A summary of the content of said ordinance, consisting of the title, provides as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY LID LIFT TO INCREASE THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX BY UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$.51, NOT TO EXCEED \$2.85 PER \$1,000 OF TRUE ASSESSED VALUATION SUPPLYING A BALLOT TITLE, STATING THE COUNCIL'S INTENT TO LIMIT ITS EXERCISE OF SAID AUTHORITY TO THAT NECESSARY TO RAISE \$1.7 MILLION CURRENT VALUE ANNUALLY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES, PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITIZENS COMMITTEE AND SEPARATE FUND TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM EXPENDITURE OF THE MONIES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE SAME SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

The full text of this Ordinance will be mailed upon request.

DATED this 30th day of August, 2004.

CITY CLERK, SANDRA S. CHASE