



City of Edmonds Media Release

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA

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CITY RELEASES FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Independent Study Identifies Three Alternatives to Enhance Services and Cut Costs

(Edmonds, WA) - On Friday, April 22nd, Mayor Dave Earling released an independent study commissioned by the City to assess the efficiency of fire and emergency medical services provided by Snohomish County Fire District One and offer potential alternatives.

In 2010 the City of Edmonds transitioned from providing municipal fire service to contracted service through Fire District One. Both parties agreed to reopen contract discussions after the first full five years of service. To prepare for those discussions, the City commissioned Fitch & Associates, nationally recognized experts in the field, to review the performance and efficiency of Fire District One's services and to explore options that maintain or improve services, contain costs, and provide for long-term sustainability.

First and foremost the Fitch study found that Fire District One is a high-quality, innovative and professionally managed fire and emergency service organization and is providing efficient and effective services to the community. Within that framework, however, the study did identify the potential for greater efficiencies and potential cost savings, principally laid out in three alternative scenarios.

The three alternative scenarios offered by Fitch for consideration would maintain or improve fire and emergency medical service levels, yet redeploy resources in ways that would also reduce costs, ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 in annual savings.

“The Fitch study is a top-notch document that has taken an unbiased, thorough look at the services and performance of Fire District One to help us identify options as we engage in further discussions with the District,” stated Mayor Earling. “The alternatives offered for our consideration are well thought-out and present real opportunities to enhance fire and medical services in Edmonds as well as reduce costs. I look forward to working with Fire District One, our City Council and the community to explore these opportunities further and find the best solution for Edmonds.”

Informed by this study and with potential alternatives to consider, the City can soon begin discussions with Fire District One about how best to forge a new, mutually beneficial contract – one that is expected to provide enhanced services as well as cost savings.

The full report is available on the City’s website at:

http://edmondswa.gov/images/COE/Government/Departments/Administrative_Services/Finance/ref/Fitch_Executive_Summary_Report.pdf

Or for more information, feel free to contact Finance Director Scott James at scott.james@edmondswa.gov or 425-775-7773.

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