



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant to the Chief/Fire  
James P. Duggan, Fire Chief  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution Amending the Fire Services Agreement with Fircrest  
Requested City Council Date: February 26, 2019  
**DATE:** February 5, 2019

**SUMMARY:**

A resolution authorizing the execution of an amendment to the agreement with the City of Fircrest to extend certain Fire Department fees and penalty charges to Fircrest.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

The proposed resolution amends the existing agreement with the City of Fircrest to allow approved commercial fire protection system compliance fees and false fire alarm and non-emergent lift assistance penalty charges to be assessed in Fircrest, effective March 1, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Tacoma and the City of Fircrest approved a consolidated fire services agreement in 1995 to have the Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) provide fire, rescue and emergency medical services in Fircrest.

As part of its approved 2019-2020 biennial budget, TFD included the extension of certain fees and penalty charges in the budget to Fircrest consistent with their implementation in Tacoma. The proposed resolution amends the existing agreement to allow those charges to be implemented in Fircrest. The fees and fines that would be extended to Fircrest include the Commercial Fire Protection Systems Compliance Fee (TMC 3.09.040), Fire False Alarm Fine (TMC 3.06.005), and the Non-Emergency Lift Assistance Fine (TMC 6B.50.070).

Based on historical information for Fircrest, TFD expects approximately 21 fire false alarms in 2019, no lift assists as the department has not received these type of calls from the two licensed care facilities that operate in Fircrest, and there are approximately 53 commercial fire protections systems that need to be tracked for compliance of their testing and maintenance records.

The proposed amendment excludes the extension of fees for building/business inspections in Fircrest because, per the intent of the original agreement, the cost of such inspections was understood to be covered by the existing contract fee. As a result, no additional fees will be charged for 56 building and 138 business inspections completed annually in Fircrest.

The Fircrest City Council approved the amendment through adoption of Resolution No. 1572 on January 8, 2019.

**ISSUE:**

Shall the existing agreement with the City of Fircrest be amended to allow the extension of certain TFD fees and penalty charges to Fircrest?



**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Fircrest City Council approved the proposed contract amendment extending TFD charges into Fircrest at its January 8, 2019 City Council meeting. Even so, the City could choose not to extend the fees and penalty charges. That would raise fairness issues for businesses in Tacoma that will be charged. It also will further complicate the administration of TFD’s charges.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

TFD recommends approval of a resolution amending the agreement with Fircrest, to extend certain Fire Department fees and penalty charges to Fircrest.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
0010 – General Fund (Fire) <i>Fire False Alarm Fine</i>	253000	4342216	\$10,700
0010 – General Fund (Fire) <i>Non-Emergency Lift Assistance Fine</i>	253000	4342225	N/A
0010 – General Fund (Fire) <i>Commercial Fire Protection Systems Compliance Fee</i>	252000	4342251	\$2,650
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$13,350</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET:** N/A, fees collected will be part of the 2019-2020 Budget.

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** Yes, part of the 2019-2020 Budget.