



2019-2020 Proposed Fees & Fines

City of Tacoma | Fire Department

Government Performance and Finance Committee

September 18, 2018

ITEM #3



Background



- Department Considerations
 - Operational Issues and Impact on Response
 - Partial Cost Recovery
- 2019-2020 Proposed Fees & Fines
 - Program Description
 - Proposed Fee/Fine & Comparison to Other Jurisdictions

2019-2020 Proposed Fees & Fines



- False Fire Alarm Fine
- Non-Emergent Lift Assist Fine
- Commercial Fire Protection Systems Compliance Fee
- Fire Code Inspection Program (FCIP) Fee

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Fire False Alarm



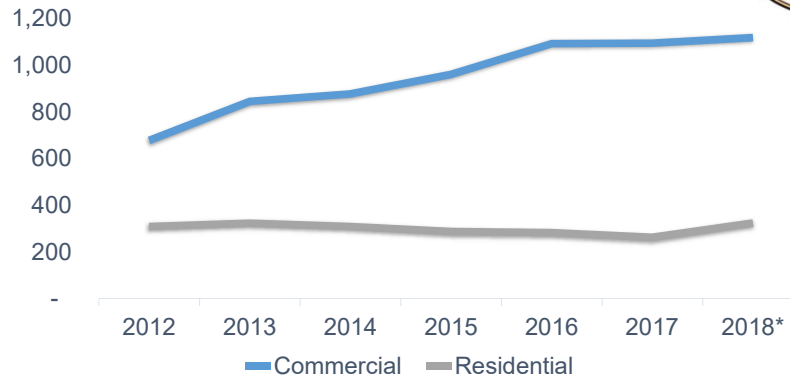
- Unintentional activations and system malfunctions, e.g.:
 - Construction dust
 - Maintenance work without placing system in test mode
 - Detectors not being maintained, low batteries
 - Smoking outside of designated areas

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Fire False Alarm



Confirmed Fire False Alarms Increasing



*2018 annualized based on July 2018 YTD

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Fire False Alarm



• Proposed fee and comparison

| Jurisdiction | Fee Range |
|---------------|--|
| Bellevue | \$150 – \$200 per incident |
| Tacoma | \$150 per residential incident; \$250 per commercial incident |
| Lakewood | \$100 – \$270 per incident |
| Vancouver | \$50 – \$300 per incident |
| Redmond | \$403.65 per hour |

**some jurisdictions allow 1-2 false fire alarms with no fee and/or fees increase with each subsequent false fire alarm in a specified time period*

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Non-Emergent Lift Assist



- Fine for licensed care facilities who use TFD resources for lifting their clients
- Educated and informed facilities over the past few years about proper 911 use as an emergency service
- Approximately 350 lift assist calls per year

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Non-Emergent Lift Assist



- Proposed fine and comparison

| Jurisdiction | Fee Per Response* |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Gig Harbor | \$385 |
| Omaha, NE | \$450 |
| Kittitas Valley | \$660 |
| Tacoma | \$850 |

**difficult to compare due to variances in response resources*

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Commercial Fire Protection Systems



- Commercial Fire Protection Systems include alarm systems, fire escapes, commercial kitchen hoods and ducts, private hydrants, sprinkler systems, and standpipes
- Systems have a required maintenance schedule and recordkeeping per Fire Code and NFPA standards
 - TFD ensures compliance
- Proposed program will dramatically increase compliance and community safety

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Commercial Fire Protection Systems



- Proposed fee and comparison

| Jurisdiction | Fee Charged Per System Testing |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Bellevue | \$25 |
| Eastside Fire | \$25 |
| Tacoma | \$25 |
| Seattle | \$30 |

**For Tacoma and Seattle, fee is charged for retest if system deficiencies are found.*

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Fire Code Inspection Program



- Inspection program in existence for over 50 years
- Charges for inspections began in June 2015
- Over 5,700 inspections completed in 2017

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Fire Code Inspection Program



- Article 3.09.015 currently limits Fire Code Fees to CPI each year
- Proposal amends article 3.09.050 to increase FCIP fees by 15-20% as of January 1, 2019 then return to CPI increases in 2020

| Tacoma FCIP Fee | Fee Range Per Inspection* |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2018 Range | \$37 – \$574 |
| 2019 Proposed Range | \$43 – \$689 |
| 2019 Proposed Increase | 15% – 20% |

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●●● Fire Code Inspection Program



• Proposed fee and comparison

| Jurisdiction | Fee Range* |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Tacoma | \$43 – \$689 |
| Olympia | \$50 – \$900 |
| Pierce County | \$55 – \$665 |
| Vancouver | \$69 – \$621 |
| Portland, OR | \$50 – \$2,000 |

**fees are generally based on a combination of building square footage and/or risk profile*

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