RESOLUTION # 513

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION #1 FOR SERS, SNOHOMISH EMERGENCY RADIO SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Snohomish County Fire Protection District #4 serves approximately 32,000 people to include those residing in the City of Snohomish. Our 70 person Staff, Firefighters and Paramedics work tirelessly to provide high quality emergency services to the community; and

WHEREAS, in order to serve the public with outstanding lifesaving service, our District 4 Firefighters and Paramedics depend on reliable and immediate 9-1-1 communications to quickly get to the scene of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, emergency 9-1-1 radio service has become increasingly problematic and unreliable for conducting essential first response communications due to the age of the equipment that SERS, the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System has been tasked with maintaining; and

WHEREAS, as Fire Commissioners we have joined other local government officials from around the county to urge Snohomish County to provide voters with an opportunity this year to decide on whether to approve a countywide sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent as specifically authorized by RCW 82.14.420, and

WHEREAS, the Board, to achieve greater efficiencies, has supported 2018 consolidation efforts to combine two previously independent 9-1-1 dispatch centers, and to now merge with SERS to form one, unified emergency communications organization under the banner of Snohomish County 911, and

WHEREAS, following our recommendation along with other local agencies and those of the Snohomish County’s Executive and Sheriff, the five-member County Council unanimously voted on June 20th, 2018 to authorize a countywide vote at the upcoming November 6th General Election on this proposed sales tax funding measure; and

WHEREAS, we support a small and dedicated county sales tax increase intended only to fund local emergency 9-1-1 communications equipment and infrastructure as it would avoid adding to local property tax burdens.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District #4, County of Snohomish, State of Washington, respectfully urge that voters consider the need for maintaining continual 9-1-1 emergency communications when deciding how to vote on Proposition No. 1. We believe having a reliable radio system to replace the existing failing countywide SERS 911 emergency radio system is critical to maintaining lifesaving public safety services in the entire county. Having considered this ballot proposition in an open public meeting, the Board of Fire Commissioners for Snohomish County Fire Protection District #4 formally expresses its support of this countywide Proposition No. 1 as it appears on the November 6th, 2018 General Election ballot.

RESOLVED THE 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018 THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

Mark Hintz, Chairman of the Board

James H. Schmoker, Jr., Fire Commissioner

Richard E. Flath, Fire Commissioner

Attest:

Ron W. Simmons, District Secretary / Fire Chief