



GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMS Levy Renewal on Ballot for Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One Voters

Fire Chief Welcomes Questions

[Gig Harbor, Wash.] – Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One is asking voters to consider renewing the levy for Emergency Medical Service during the November 8, 2022, General Election. Fire Chief Dennis Doan personally welcomes any questions the community may have at 253-851-3111 or ddoan@gigharborfire.org.

The EMS levy is not a new tax and this levy is capped at \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Voters last approved the EMS levy at the same rate in 2016.

New property value assessments recently came out for the Gig Harbor community. Higher AVs do not increase revenue for the fire district by the same amount property values rise. Like all fire districts, GHFMO is limited to a 1% increase in revenue. Anything above the 1% must be approved by voters.

“Simply put: we can’t do this work without you,” Fire Chief Dennis Doan said. “Your past approval means our community receives the highest level of EMS care available called ‘Advanced Life Support’ or ‘ALS.’ ”

Most fire districts provide Basic Life Support with firefighter/EMTs. ALS uses firefighter/paramedics with more than 1,000 hours of training. Paramedics can start intravenous lines, administer medication, provide advanced airway management to help patients breathe, and can interpret EKG readings of a heart attack patient, among other lifesaving medical care procedures.

Additionally, fire district residents are not charged for ambulance transport costs to area hospitals over what insurance, Medicare or Medicaid pay. This is included as part of the EMS levy.

In 2021, EMS calls accounted for 78% of all emergency calls. EMS calls for the first six months of 2022 were 12.4% higher than the same period in 2021. Renewing the EMS levy at the same rate helps the fire district keep up with increasing call volumes and demands for service.

More information about the EMS renewal can be found at www.gigharborfire.org/about/EMS.

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Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 5 (known as Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One) provides fire and life safety services to 53,000 people over 54 square miles. The Fire District responded to 6,350 calls in 2021. Emergency medical service accounts for 78% of all calls. Through community support, Gig Harbor Fire &

Medic One has built one of the most advanced emergency response systems in Pierce County with highly trained personnel and rescue programs.