



Snohomish County Fire Chiefs' Association

"Progressive Fire Protection Through Cooperation"

12425 Meridian Ave S, Everett 98208

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October 15, 2015

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AC Steve Guptill

SNOCOM Fire Tac
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Mayor Jerry Smith
SNOCOM Board of Directors
P.O. Box 180
Mountlake Terrace WA 98043

Dear Mayor Smith:

The existing Snohomish County 911 dispatch system has, by most measures, served Snohomish County very well for four decades. Never the less much has changed since the early 1970's and a review of dispatch services in the County is needed.

Within the public safety community there is a universal understanding that the existence of two Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Snohomish County has been the cause of dispatch delays which may pose a danger to the public and emergency responders. **Therefore on October 5, 2015 the Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association (SCFCA) voted unanimously in favor of further study to establish a single Snohomish County PSAP or dispatch center.**

Even though a single PSAP does not require a change to the existing dispatch system, the SCFCA believes that better models are available. Opportunities exist beyond the present two center system or even a simple merger of the two centers. Present circumstances, events, and opinions favor a paradigm shift in which all options are considered.

We therefore ask that further study and strong consideration for dispatch and PSAP consolidation be researched based on efficiency, resilience, quality, cost, and equity to stakeholders and center employees.

The SCFCA is eager to participate in a process with stakeholders to create an acceptable design and implementation strategy.

Thank you for giving attention to this critical public safety service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Halverson", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Merlin Halverson
President, Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association

Received
OCT 19 2015
SNOCOM