

Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program

Work Session with the Clark County
Council

June 8, 2016

Brief Review

- At the previous work session, we discussed:
 - State and county laws related to fire inspections;
 - The county's current inspection program
 - Potential impacts to WSRB's fire protection rating for fire departments;
 - What other counties are doing;
 - Framework for what Clark County's inspection program should be

For this morning....

- Answer questions that came out of the last work session;
- Examine options for staffing the inspection program;
- Consider several options for to fund the program

Who is performing fire inspections in other counties?

- **Pierce County**
 - Deputy Fire Marshals at \$31.14 to \$39.58 per hour
- **Kitsap County**
 - Deputy Fire Marshals at \$26.54 to \$35.56 per hour
- **Snohomish County**
 - Fire Inspector at \$26.84 to \$35.96 per hour
- **Thurston County**
 - Fire Code Specialist at \$28.52 to \$37.93 per hour

Compare to Clark County

- **Clark County**

- Fire Inspector I \$28.22 - \$34.40 per hour

This level is intended for employees with basic knowledge, skills, and abilities

- Fire Inspector II \$30.69 - \$37.34 per hour

Have advanced knowledge and experience with fire systems, hazardous materials, more complex technical work

Companies doing this body of work?

- There are no county governments utilizing private contractors to perform ongoing fire and life safety inspections of businesses
- There are many companies that inspect fire systems; none were found that inspect the building or the business itself

Inspection Program Options

- Assembled several options for the Council's consideration

Program Funding Options

- Initially asked for \$360,000 of additional General Fund for 2 additional positions
- Preference was for the General Fund to fully support the inspection program
- Got the message that the Council was not on board with a program without some level of fees

Program Funding Options

- Fee methodologies and estimated annual revenue for each
- Not all possibilities, but practical examples
- The number of businesses (and as a result the fee revenue shown) is based on research done – did NOT include an account if there was any question. Conservative numbers
- It is still not known how many businesses there are or where we might find them

Clark County Code

- Changes to Title 6 (Fees)
 - Should the Council choose something other than the current hourly rate
- Changes to Title 15 (Fire Code)
 - Related to inspection frequencies
 - Modifying language for Operational Permits
 - For submitting fire system inspection, testing, and maintenance records to The Compliance Engine