



Clark County Fire District 5

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clark County Fire District 5 Invites Residents to Public Meeting Fire levy lid lift on August 2 election ballot- **Proposition 1**

VANCOUVER, WA – Clark County Fire District 5 (CCFD5) is inviting residents to a public meeting to learn more about a proposed fire levy lid lift on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot. CCFD5's service area includes approximately 94,000 people north of the Vancouver city limits. Residents receive fire and emergency medical service through a cooperative agreement with the Vancouver Fire Department, which provides a higher level of service than the Fire District could provide on its own.

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. The meeting invite and link will be posted on the District's website at ccfd5.org on the landing page, and will also be advertised on Facebook @ccfd5 and Instagram @ccfdfive. There will be a brief presentation by Fire Commissioner Ron Gibson, Fire Chief Brennan Blue and District Administrator Jennifer Bethke, followed by an opportunity for residents to ask questions about the fire levy lid lift, which will be Proposition 1 on voter ballots.

In February of this year, Vancouver voters approved a levy increase of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV). CCFD5 is asking its residents for a \$0.24 per \$1,000 of AV fire levy "lid lift" to fund its share of services. The 24-cent "lid lift" would cost the owner of a \$400,000 home an additional \$8 per month (\$96 per year).

Emergency call volumes have increased 20.8% since 2019. However, the Vancouver Fire Department is operating with the same number of firefighters as 15 years ago. Fire facilities are aging, needing renovations, seismic upgrades, and added space for additional firefighters, training opportunities, and equipment.

This would be the first voter-approved levy increase in 30 years for CCFD5. The lid lift would last six years, and could increase up to 6% per year but never exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of AV by law. This is standard language for a fire levy lid lift, and the CCFD5 Board of Fire Commissioners has typically only taken a 1% increase annually.

Funding would hire three additional firefighters, including a paramedic, at Station 11 serving the Orchards-Sifton area. The new station and positions will help reduce emergency response times district-wide. Other station improvements include seismic upgrades for firefighter and community safety. These

improvements will help maintain CCFD5's risk rating, which is linked to what homeowners pay in insurance premiums.

More information on CCFD5's fire levy lid lift can be found at www.ccf5.org. District Administrator Jennifer Bethke also welcomes questions at jennifer.bethke@ccfd5.org or (564) 397-2148 .

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Clark County Fire District 5 contracts with the Vancouver Fire Department to provide fire and life safety services to approximately 94,000 people over 36 square miles. In 2021, firefighters responded to almost 7,000 calls for service in CCFD5, a 20.8% increase in just three years. CCFD5 has been a leader in the county for improving the quality of emergency services, and health and safety through its public education and training programs. More information on CCFD5 can be found on its website www.ccf5.org.