

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES, AMENDING CURRENT SECTION 2.57.012 BY ADOPTING THE STATE LAW DEFINITION OF "EMERGENCY"

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham has enacted laws in regards to emergency preparedness through Bellingham Municipal Code 2.57;

WHEREAS, the current definition of "emergency" and "disaster" in Bellingham Municipal Code 2.57.020 is different from the definition under State law;

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham wishes to have emergency services ordinances that are consistent with State law to ensure effective enforcement of a potential emergency declaration should there be an emergency or disaster;

WHEREAS, amending the definition of "emergency" and "disaster" to conform with state law will lend to more effective enforcement of the City's code and interaction with the state of Washington in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, adoption of and amending the Bellingham Municipal Code to include the existing definition of "emergency" and "disaster" under state law is necessary to preserve the public safety, health, and welfare of the community in the case of an emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Section 2.57.010 of the Bellingham Municipal Code shall be amended to read as follows:

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

~~"Disaster" means the actual or threatened existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of a large segment of the community and/or their property.~~

"Emergency or disaster" as used in all sections of this chapter shall mean an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences, or (ii) reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor declaring a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.

"Emergency services" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which the military forces are primarily responsible, to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters caused by enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action; or by epidemics; riot, but other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy; nuclear or chemical fiasco or holocaust; fire, flood, storm,

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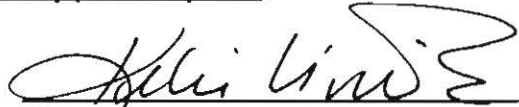
earthquake, or other natural causes; and to provide support for persons and property in distress. These functions include, without limitations, fire fighting services; police services; medical and health services; rescue; engineering; air raid warning services; communications; radiological, chemical, and other special weapons defense; evacuations of persons from stricken areas; emergency welfare services; emergency transportation; existing or properly assigned functions of plant protection; temporary restoration of public utility services and other functions related to civilian protection; together with all other activities necessary or incidental to the preparation and for carrying out of the foregoing functions.

PASSED by the Council this 4th day of November, 2013.



Council President

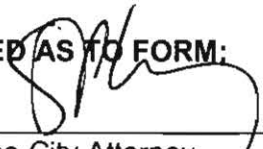
APPROVED by me this 18th day of November, 2013.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

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