

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
Police Department, Office of Emergency Management	Barb Graff, 206-684-0437	Kara Tillotson, 206-684-5292

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title:

An ORDINANCE related to the City’s Emergency Management Program; adding Sections 10.02.045 and 10.02.047 to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to refine the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Emergency Management; and amending Sections 10.02.050, 10.02.060, 10.02.070, 10.02.080, 10.02.090, 10.02.100, and 10.02.110 of the SMC to accommodate these refinements.

Summary and background of the Legislation:

The City’s emergency management program has evolved in the last 10 years from a primarily first responder-focused program to a full-fledged whole community program including roles, responsibilities, training, and practice for nearly all City Departments and dozens of community partners. The Seattle Municipal Code Chapter describing this program was enacted in the 1970’s with only minor department name changes in the 2000’s and no longer reflects the strength and breadth of the current program. Since that time national standards for emergency management accreditation have also been developed. The suggested revisions meet the criteria for accreditation without substantively changing anything about how emergency management has been operating for 10 years. The revisions specify that:

1. An OEM Director will be appointed;
2. The OEM Director will oversee an established program;
3. The program abides by an incident command system; and
4. The Mayor’s Emergency Executive Board will act as the policy oversight body.

The current code is silent on these issues.

Seattle’s emergency management program would be the first City in the 4-State FEMA Region to become accredited. Accreditation hinges upon these revisions.

Ten years ago, Mayor Nickels appointed the current OEM Director. This appointment is not subject to Council confirmation. The Director technically reports to the Chief of Police but in practice, the OEM Director is a Cabinet position and reports also to the Mayor. The six different Chiefs of Police the current OEM Director has served under have all been supportive of this arrangement.

The legislation establishes the Office of Emergency Management. The Office will remain a division within the Police Department unless the Mayor wishes to move it – which has been done

several times in the past.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This legislation does not have direct financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**
No.
- b) **Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**
None.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
The legislation does not affect other departments however the Office of Emergency Management which is the focus of the legislation works with all City Departments on a very frequent basis.
- d) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- e) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
No.
- f) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- g) **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**
No.
- h) **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.**
This legislation does not create or expand any missions. It simply codifies the way the City has been conducting an emergency management program for the last 10 years.
- i) **Other Issues:**
None.

List attachments below: