

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Seattle Fire Department	Karen Grove	Ramandeep Kaur

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Fire Department’s services and fees; adding, deleting, and revising various Seattle Fire Department permit, inspection, and development-related fees and related provisions; and amending Sections 22.602.045, 22.602.070, and 22.900G.060 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

#### **Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

This legislation introduces a small number of new permit titles to align with new permit types included in the 2021 Fire Code and makes other changes to certification exam titles also required by the 2021 Fire Code.

This legislation also creates a new fee to help stabilize SFD’s development-related services. Over the past several economic cycles, SFD has had significant recurring impacts on the City’s building permit process. SFD delays have impacted the City’s service goals, slowed the production of new housing units, and cost customers thousands to tens of thousands of dollars. The proposed legislation would result in an overall revenue increase for 2024 and 2025 of \$315,000.

#### **Background**

SFD’s Fire Marshal’s Office (also known as the Fire Prevention Division) provides permits and services to help ensure the safety of Seattle residents, workers and visitors and protect them and their property from the hazards of fires, explosions, and dangerous conditions including releases of hazardous materials. The Fire Prevention Division has historically operated by collecting fees that offset some of the costs of providing fire prevention services to service users. Both direct and indirect costs of providing services are included when making cost recovery calculations. The following program specific permit changes are included in the proposed legislation:

For **hazardous materials**, new permits are introduced for newer technologies including 3-D printing and energy storage systems, aligning SFD’s permits with the permits listed in the 2021 International Fire Code.

For **special events**, the flame effects permit is modified to reflect different costs of service for smaller events, larger events, and to provide a discount for events that require the SFD pyrotechnic permit in addition to the flame effects permit.

For **development-related services**, new inspection services are added for integrated testing of fire protection systems and smoke control systems in new construction and buildings undergoing

significant remodels. The legislation also proposes a fee based on project value to help improve turn around times by adding an inspector and investing in process updates.

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?  Yes  No

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?  Yes  No

Appropriation change (\$):	General Fund \$		Other \$	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
	0	0	0	0
Estimated revenue change (\$):	Revenue to General Fund		Revenue to Other Funds	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
	\$315,932	\$315,932	0	0
Positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
	0	0	0	0

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?  
 No.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?  
 Yes. SFD has been a repeated cause of delays to the City’s building permitting process. This ordinance helps SFD take steps to reduce costly delays and improve turn around times including ability to fund an additional new construction inspector and retire aging standalone systems that slow the SFD plan review process.

**3.a. Appropriations**

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

**3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements**

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

**Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:**

<b>Fund Name and Number</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>2024 Revenue</b>	<b>2025 Estimated Revenue</b>
General Fund, No. 00100	SFD	Development-Related Services	\$307,220	\$307,220
General Fund, No. 00100	SFD	Hazardous Materials	\$2,592	\$2,592
General Fund, No. 00100	SFD	Special Events	\$6,120	\$6,120
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$315,932</b>	<b>\$315,932</b>

**3.c. Positions**

\_\_\_ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
 Yes. SDCI will update the fee amounts in the City’s Accela system for the development-related fee changes in this legislation. City building customers pay for these fees in a one-stop shop within Accela, also known as the Seattle Services Portal. SDCI then transfers the revenues for SFD services to SFD for recording in SFD revenue accounts.
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**  
 No.
- c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**  
 No.
- d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**  
 No.
- e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**  
 This legislation includes an additional fee for development-related services. The fee is structured based on project value (sliding scale) instead of based on a flat fee and will be the first time SFD’s fee tables have included a value-based fee. Value-based fees are preferable from an equity perspective than flat fees. Using valuation has the result that larger projects pay higher fees for services than smaller projects. This reflects that larger projects take more work, and it creates a structure that provides small projects with lower fees. This will benefit all low-income communities and small businesses, including BIPOC communities and businesses. The fee will be used for staffing stability and process improvements. Part of the process improvements include language access review and improvements. This work will be

informed by an RSJ Equity Toolkit analysis, to be performed at the start of the new budget year.

**f. Climate Change Implications**

**1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?**

No; however, this legislation contributes in a moderate way by setting up administrative provisions for the new energy storage systems (ESS) permit that is included in the 2021 international fire code. ESS are used in buildings and outside of buildings to store and make available electrical power as an alternative to carbon-based power.

**2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

No; however, this legislation contributes in a moderate way by setting up administrative provisions for the new energy storage systems (ESS) permit that is included in the 2021 international fire code. ESS are used in buildings and outside of buildings to store and make available electrical power as an alternative to carbon-based power.

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?**

N/A