2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

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Budget Action Title: Impose a proviso on the NMF for Community Emergency Hubs grants

Has CIP Amendment:NoHas Budget Proviso:Yes

Councilmembers: Godden; Harrell; Sawant

Staff Analyst: Rebecca Herzfeld

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	ТВ	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Budget Action description:

This budget action would impose the following budget proviso:

"Of the appropriation in the 2016 budget for the Neighborhood Matching Fund, \$18,000 is appropriated solely to equip Community Emergency Hubs and may be spent for no other purpose."

Background

The City currently has 52 Community Emergency Hubs (Hubs) that would function as gathering places after a disaster, where people can get information, ask for help, or volunteer to help others. A map of the Hub locations can be seen here: <u>http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Emergency/Hubs2015Map-FINAL.pdf</u>. The Hubs are run by community volunteers.

Some, but not all, of the Hub locations include a shed or other container for equipment such as radios, a table and chairs, clipboards, and other items that would be useful after an emergency. This type of equipment, dubbed "Hub in a Box", has been made available in the past through the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) and from federal grant funding. While some volunteers have requested that funds be made available without

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the need to apply for NMF funding, OEM staff believe that the match of volunteer hours required for such a grant strengthens community involvement. The \$18,000 set aside in the proviso would support equipment for 15 Hubs.

The OEM would provide criteria for awarding the equipment grants. OEM's priority is to establish Hubs where none currently exist.