



North Whatcom Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners

North Whatcom Fire & Rescue

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21 ("District 21") Announces Withdrawal From the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee with Whatcom County Fire District No. 4 ("District 4")

(Lynden, WA)-The District 21 Fire Commission has announced that they have ended the joint effort to form a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) with District 4. Pursuant to statute, the withdrawal becomes effective 30 days after notification, but no Planning Committee meetings are scheduled during the 30 days.

Commissioner Bruce Ansell said, "Although we plan to continue exploring regionalization opportunities for the benefit of our citizens, District 4 is not the right partner for us at this time".

In an open public meeting on April 15, 2021, the commission unanimously approved withdrawing from the RFA process. They noted that the decision was very difficult, especially because District 4 has terminated the Inter-Local Agreement for District 21 to provide fire and emergency medical services to District 4 residents and businesses. However, District 21's commissioners agreed that there are cultural and strategic differences between the two fire commissions that made moving forward with an RFA inadvisable.

District 21 will continue to provide fire and emergency medical services in District 4 through December 31, 2021. District 21 will work collaboratively with District 4 during the transition period, and has invited District 4 to submit recommendations for a new Inter-Local Agreement to ensure that District 4 continues to receive high quality fire and emergency medical services.

Commissioner Ansell stated, "Our commission thanks all of our dedicated staff members who worked to support the planning committee. We are deeply disappointed, but must always keep at the forefront of our work our taxpayers and employees and what is best for them. We are committed to providing excellent service to our taxpayers, and we are committed to the employees who provide that service".

Each district will be separately communicating with their residents about future plans.

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