RESOLUTION NO. 952

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21, DECLARING THE INTENT TO ESTABLISH A VOTER-AUTHORIZED BENEFIT CHARGE EACH YEAR FOR SIX (6) YEARS AND CALLING FOR AN ELECTION WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF A PROPOSITION TO ESTABLISH THE VOTER-AUTHORIZED BENEFIT CHARGE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT FOR UP TO SIX (6) YEARS.

WHEREAS: The District is authorized by Chapter 52.18 RCW to establish, impose and collect a Benefit Charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the District; and

WHEREAS: The District proposes to receive voter approval to so establish and impose a Benefit Charge; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that the regular property tax levy and other income for 2021 and subsequent years will not be sufficient to cover the operating costs of the District, in order to maintain a satisfactory level of service by the District to its citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS: The District’s level of service provided for fire and emergency medical services may actually have to be reduced unless the Benefit Charge is established; and

WHEREAS: The Benefit Charge will be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits that each property receives from the services by the District; and

WHEREAS: The Board recognizes that if the Benefit Charge is established pursuant to voter approval, the District cannot collect the “third fifty cents” allowed by RCW 52.16.160 as long as the Benefit Charge is in force; and

WHEREAS: The Board recognizes that the Benefit Charge collected in the District cannot exceed 60% of the District’s operating budget;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21 THAT:

Section 1. Benefit Charge. It is the declared intent of the District to establish a voter-authorized Benefit Charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21, to be paid by the owners of such property.
Section 2. **Amount of Benefit Charge.** The amount of the Benefit Charge for each year, and for each property, shall be set in the year preceding imposition of the Benefit Charge, after a public hearing to review and establish the amount of the Benefit Charge for the subsequent year, pursuant to RCW 52.18.060.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** The Benefit Charge, if approved, would be fixed and imposed on the affected properties, effective January 1, 2021, if authorized by the voters.

Section 4. **Notice of the Benefit Charge.** Pursuant to RCW 52.18.060 and 52.18.070, property owners will be notified in writing of the Benefit Charge proposed to be assessed on their property, and the amounts thereof, subsequent to the public hearing referred to in Section 2 above, and prior to the formation or convening of a Benefit Charge review board by the Commissioners. Such review board shall be convened and available for a two-week period, to hear and decide written complaints from aggrieved property owners who, in their opinion, have been charged improperly.

Section 5. **Election.** Pursuant to RCW 52.18.050, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their approval or rejection, at the general election of November 3, 2020, the question whether to approve a voter-authorized Benefit Charge for fire protection district purposes, as authorized by law. The Secretary of the District is authorized and directed to request the Auditor of Pierce County to call said election, the ballot title for which is to be precisely as prescribed by RCW 52.18.050.

**BALLOT TITLE**

**PROPOSITION NO. ____**

**PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21 (GRAHAM FIRE)**

Shall Graham Fire (Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21) be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for six years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

_____ YES    _____ NO

MOVED AND PASSED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 21 ON JULY 22, 2020, OF WHICH ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE NOTIFIED AND THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AND VOTING:
Ryan Portmann, Board Chairman

Adam G. Rosenlund, Commissioner

Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner

Gina Blanchard-Reed, Commissioner

Robert Homan, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Brenda L.B. Barker, District Secretary

Approved as to form:

JOSEPH F. QUINN, WSB #6810
Attorney for District