BELLINGHAM REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225
Telephone: (360) 778-8400 Fax: (360) 778-8101
Email: fire@cob.org Website: bellinghamrfa.org

BELLINGHAM REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Bellingham Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee will hold a special meeting and public hearing on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6 p.m.** to take public comment on the following:

A Regional Fire Authority (RFA) is an independent public agency that provides fire protection and EMS services within its boundaries. City of Bellingham leaders and Whatcom County Fire District 8 Commissioners are proposing the formation of a Regional Fire Authority to provide services within their service areas. In April 2026 they formed an RFA planning committee that created a plan for the structure and funding of an RFA, which will be described at the hearing. Ultimately, the decision to form an RFA and what tax rate to set must be approved by voters.

One funding tool an RFA may use is a Fire Benefit Charge, a fee based on the costs of providing fire protection to the buildings on a property. It is typically determined by structure size, use, and fire risk.

This public hearing is an opportunity for community members to comment on the plan and possible implementation of a Fire Benefit Charge.

Detailed information can be found at: bellinghamrfa.org.

Staff Contact: Melissa Morin, Communications and Community Relations Director, (360) 778-8110, mmmorin@cob.org

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Instructions for Providing Comment:

Anyone wishing to comment on this item is invited to do so, either at the public hearing or in advance.

1. Speaking During the Public Hearing:

- The meeting will be held in **Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall**, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.
- Comments will be limited to two minutes each.
- Sign-up sheets for those who wish to speak will be available outside the Chambers doors between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. Sign up is recommended but not required.
- No remote option will be available for this hearing.

2. Providing Written Comment:

You may also provide your comments in writing **before the hearing**:

- **Email:** Send to fire@cob.org
- **Mail:** Bellingham Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee
  210 Lottie Street
  Bellingham, WA 98225