

SOUTH KING FIRE

February 17, 2026
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the Special Meeting to order at 1700 hours with Commissioners Vadino, and Fuller in attendance, Commissioner Monroe joined the meeting virtually and Commissioner Burrus was an unexcused absence. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant Chief Michaels.

To listen to the full meeting, please visit our website.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fuller had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Monroe had no comments.

Commissioner Baruso had no comments.

CONCLUDING FIRE BENEFIT CHARGE REVIEW BOARD PERIOD

Commissioner Baruso thanked everyone for attending this meeting as we conclude the review period for the benefit charge petitions as established under RCW 52.18.070. Over the past two weeks, the Benefit Charge Review Board has carefully considered each petition submitted by property owners who raised concerns about the amount of their benefit charges.

Pursuant to RCW 52.18.070, the Board of Fire Commissioner shall, upon complaint in writing of a party aggrieved owning property in the District, reduce the charge of a person who, in the Board's opinion, has been charged too large a sum, to a sum or amount as the Board believes to be the true, fair, and just amount.

Finance Manager Barrett reported on behalf of the Benefit Review Board that they received 145 petitions from citizens requesting a review of their FBC amount based on the following criteria for a potential reduction;

- 32% of them were requesting square footage corrections
- 40% were requesting financial hardship
- 9% were monitored fire alarms
- 3% were for sprinkler discounts
- 16% were classified as others, which means they either did not give a reason, or they don't agree with the Fire Benefit Charge in general

Finance Manager Barrett added that this is a reduction of 67% from last year. The FBC Review Board met and reviewed each petition, and they recommend the following adjustments on 13 petitions. 5 based on senior discounts, one for having a fire sprinkler, and seven for having a monitored alarm, this equates to a total adjustment of \$1,225.56.

Commissioner Vadino made a Motion to adopt the provided table of reduced benefit charges as recommended by the Review Board. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion passed.

Commissioner Fuller noted that it is great that individuals are putting in fire sprinklers, how do we validate that they have actually had a fire alarm installed? Finance Manager Barrett noted that for those that have their fire alarm monitored, they need to provide us with a Certificate form that agency that monitors the alarm. The committee also works with Fire Marshal Nichols who reviews the documents and the permits via the City of Federal Way or the City of Des Moines to verify that he do in fact have sprinklers.

The Board of Fire Commissioners takes no action on any other submitted petitions, based upon recommendations by the Benefit-Charge Review Board.

We appreciate the diligent work of the Review Board in this process and thank the community for their engagement. This concludes the petition review process. Commissioner Baruso asked if there were any public comments specific to this subject.

Mark Eide is a Des Moines resident living at the Redondo Beach Condominiums, which includes 36 or 37 Condos. He didn't realize that the Board was moving forward with a Motion without any public input, or that we had some opportunity to appear before the Board that made the recommendations to you. Mr. Eide had a personal appeal, he was joined tonight by Barry Costello, the Secretary of the Beach Condominium Association who filed one on behalf of the condo association. Mr. Eide added that his FBC amount increased about 25% and absolutely nothing has changed since last year, except they have enhanced the fire alarm and put in a new elevator and actually had the fire department respond to a call at their building for someone who had fallen. He added that one of their fire hydrants has not been working for at least four months, apparently no one goes around to look at the fire hydrants. Mr. Eide added that he looked at our website trying to figure out why the increase and to file an appeal. The website referred to a lot of studies and regulations, none of which made any sense to him as he is not a Fire Engineer.

Barry Costello noted that in 2025, the fire fee for the County was \$623 and on top of that was the Fire Benefit Charge of \$620. So this essentially doubled what had been the case in 2024. His perception was that one fee was going down and one was going to go up. The fees for the Condos have gone up, however a similar size home down the street they are paying \$334 and each individual unit in the condo building is paying \$773, more than double of the individual residence. Mr. Costello requested that the individual condo owners be treated the same as the individuals homeowners. He also thanked Finance Manager Barrett for working with them, as she has been great to work with, they just want to be treated fairly and understand the formulas. Through the petition process they received a \$62.00 reduction.

Executive Director Ganem thanked them for bringing this forward and we already have a plan to look into this. We will look into this and get back to you.

The meeting adjourned at 1527 hours.

William S. Faler

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

Craig Burns

COMMISSIONER

[Signature]

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

Laurie P.

BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER