

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY AT A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017, OF A PUBLIC SAFETY PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LEVY REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS OF RCW CHAPTER 84.55; AND SETTING FORTH THE TEXT OF THE BALLOT PROPOSITION.

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council finds there is a need to provide public safety services that will require the hiring of police officers for the City’s walking patrol, other law enforcement personnel, police training and recruitment, a code enforcement officer, a community policing program, a policy manager, a mental health response team, for direct mental health services, and for Olympia’s Community Court, which services are in the best interest of the City and which will serve the residents of Olympia, improve public safety, and provide necessary services to the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 provides for the levy of regular property taxes in an amount exceeding the limitations specified in Chapter 84.55 RCW if such increased levy is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters at an election held within the taxing district (a “levy lid lift”); and

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to submit a levy lid lift proposition under RCW 84.55.050(1) to the voters for their approval or rejection;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Calling of Election. The Olympia City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City to submit to the qualified voters of the City, at the general election to be held on November 7, 2017, a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy for collection in 2018 by an amount greater than otherwise permitted under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the purposes described in Section 2(a) herein. If this proposition is approved, the City Council will be authorized to adopt, in accordance with its regular budget process, an increased regular property tax as described in Section 2 herein.

Section 2. Purpose and Description of Ballot Proposition (the “Proposition”). For the purposes identified below, the Olympia City Council seeks voter approval under RCW 84.55.050 for a levy lid lift, as follows:

(a) **Purpose.** The amounts collected pursuant to the increase authorized by the Proposition shall be used to pay for the hiring of police officers for the City’s walking patrol, other law enforcement personnel, a code enforcement officer, a community policing program, a policy manager, police training and recruitment, a mental health response team, for direct mental health services, and for Olympia’s Community Court.

(b) Increase Authorized in 2017. The Proposition authorizes a maximum increase in the City's total levy rate to the maximum rate otherwise allowed for collection in 2018 under Chapter 84.55 RCW to finance public safety, law enforcement, code enforcement, mental health and Community Court services. This proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy to a total authorized rate of not to exceed \$2.71 per \$1,000 (an estimated increase of \$0.45 per \$1,000 over the current levy) of assessed valuation for collection beginning 2018 and to use the 2018 levy amount to recalculate subsequent levy limits.

(c) Increase Authorized in Future Years. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the dollar amount of the maximum authorized levy under Chapter 84.55 RCW for collection in 2018 and thereafter shall be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies provided for under Chapter 84.55 RCW, and such funds shall be limited to the purposes described in Section 2(a), above.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The Auditor of Thurston County, Washington (the "Auditor"), as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, is hereby requested to call and conduct an election in the City, in the manner provided by law, to be held on the date identified in Section 1, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the City, a proposition in substantially the following form:

THE CITY OF OLYMPIA
PROPOSITION NUMBER 1

Public Safety Levy

The Olympia City Council adopted Ordinance No. ____ concerning property taxes for public safety, law enforcement, **police training and recruitment**, code enforcement, mental health services, and Community Court purposes.

To finance public safety, law enforcement, **police training and recruitment**, code enforcement, mental health and Community Court services, this proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy to a total authorized rate of not to exceed \$2.71 per \$1,000 (an estimated increase of \$0.45 per \$1,000 over the current levy) of assessed valuation for collection beginning 2018 and to use the 2018 levy amount to recalculate subsequent levy limits. Should this proposition be:

Approved Rejected

Section 4. Notices Relating to Ballot Proposition. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Olympia City Council designates (1) the Administrative Services Director, Mary Verner, 360-753-8499, mverner@ci.olympia.wa.us; (2) the City Attorney, Mark Barber, 360-753-8223, mbarber@ci.olympia.wa.us; and (3) Foster Pepper PLLC, Nancy Neraas, 206-447-4400, neran@foster.com, as the individuals to whom such notice should be provided.

Section 5. Authorization to Deliver Ordinance and Perform Other Necessary Duties. The City Clerk is authorized and directed, no later than July 31, 2017, to certify a copy of this Ordinance to the Auditor and to perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the Proposition described herein should appear on the ballot at the general election identified in Section 1 of this

Ordinance and any other acts taken after the passage of this Ordinance and consistent with its authority, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 6. Severability. The recitals stated above constitute specific findings by the Olympia City Council in support of passage of this Ordinance. If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, and said invalid provision shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Ordinance or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized herein.

Section 7. Publication and Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the Olympia City Council at a regular open public meeting thereof this ____ day of July, 2017.

CITY OF OLYMPIA

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY

PASSED:

APPROVED:

PUBLISHED:

