



Public Infrastructure and Conservation

Deb Bell

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAF: 2023-1054
Ordinance: 23-095

Type:

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other

Requested Handling:

- Normal
- Expedite
- Urgent

Fund Source:

- General Fund
- Other
- N/A

Executive Rec:

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- N/A

Approved as to

Form:

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Subject: Revise Snohomish County Code to allow for the donation of surplus vehicles.

Scope: The proposed code change would allow for surplus vehicles to be donated to government agencies or bona fide non-profit organizations that provide services to the poor and infirm. New code is inserted (4.46.251) which creates requirements that the applicant must demonstrate, these include but are not limited to proof that they are a non-profit organization that provides services to the poor and/or infirm, has the ability to provide indemnification and proof of vehicle liability insurance, the ability to pay all licensing, registration and title transfer costs, and must agree to pay the County fair market value if not used to provide services to the poor and/or infirm. Vehicles in the equipment rental and revolving plan or vehicles purchased with special revenue funds or grant proceeds are excluded and are not eligible for donation. Council approval by motion is required prior to entering into an agreement to donate the County vehicle.

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Multi-Year N/A

Administrative costs for the donation process are to be reimbursed by the applicant.

Authority Granted: Council approval to change County Code, under Charter Section 2.115.

Background: The donation of surplus property to a nonprofit organization or other entity is prohibited as a gift of public funds under the state constitution, unless specifically authorized by law ([Article 8, Section 7](#)). If the recipient organization provides assistance to the “poor and infirm”, the donation is allowed under the constitutional exception for the “necessary support of the poor and infirm”. Additionally, property may be donated if the cost of selling or otherwise disposing of the property would exceed the fair market value.

Snohomish County Code does not currently allow for the donation of surplus vehicles. The proposed code change would create a process for entities and vehicles that would qualify for donation.

Councilmember Dunn proposed the vehicle donation program and worked collaboratively with Executive Staff on the proposed code change.

Requested Action: Move to GLS on September 27, 2023, to set time and date for a Public Hearing, October 18th at 10:30 am is suggested.