



Planning and Community Development

Ryan Hembree

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAF: 2025-3402

Ordinance: 25-077

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: Religious Facilities definition

Scope: Define Religious Facilities as a neutral term instead of "church." This will amend Snohomish County Code (SCC) Chapters 30.22, 30.23, 30.26, 30.27, 30.28, 30.31f, 30.32b, 30.32e, 30.67, 30.91c, and 30.91e; repealing SCC 30.91c.085; and adding a new section to Chapter 30.91r SCC.

This code amendment was recommended by the Hearing Examiner.

Duration: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Multi-Year N/A

Authority Granted:

Authorizes the Executive to approve Ordinance 25-077 to create a neutral term for define Religious Facilities through SCC amendments.

This will increase the clarity and efficiency of the permitting process

Background:

Currently, SCC defines a "church" as any religious worship facility. This includes all buildings, structures and meeting places intended for religious services or regular assembly. The term church is also used for synagogues, temples, mosques, reading rooms, and other places dedicated to religious worship and activities as well as in the use matrix.

This has led to the Hearing Examiner recommending an amendment to a more neutral term to residents of all faiths, not tied to a specific religion. This will also increase the clarity and efficiency of the permitting process

Proposed Code Amendment:

30.91C.085 Church Religious Facility. "Church Religious Facility" means a building, including all accessory buildings, or meeting place intended primarily for the performance of religious services and/or where persons regularly assemble for religious worship. This includes churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and reading rooms or other places for religious worship and religious activity. This definition does not include facilities for training of religious orders, denominations, or sects."

Request: To move Ordinance 25-3402 to GLS to set a time and date for a public hearing.