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CITY OF FIRCREST RESOLUTION NO. 1705

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING AN EFFORT BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL TO DISSOLVE THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department has operated since 1972 with a mission to protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County, including the City of Fircrest; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health that governs the agency includes a representative from Pierce County cities and towns whose role is to speak for jurisdictions like the City of Fircrest; and

WHEREAS, several members of the Pierce County Council have surprised the community by advancing a measure to dissolve the independent agency and reconstitute it under the sole authority of Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, there has been no attempt to proactively seek input from cities, towns, businesses, organizations, health care providers, or members of the public about this major proposal, which is scheduled to be adopted only two weeks after its introduction; and

WHEREAS, this proposal is being offered at a time when COVID-19 cases are rising rapidly and causing great concern about the capacity of our health systems, and we need the full attention of our public health agency focused on the worsening pandemic; and

WHEREAS, County Council members and County Executive Bruce Dammeier have offered no compelling reason for such a radical change to the governance and operations of our local health department. Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST:

Section 1. The Mayor and members of the Fircrest City Council urge leaders of the Pierce County Council and County Executive Bruce Dammeier to postpone the vote in order to conduct meaningful engagement with stakeholders and the public about the goals and impact of this major proposal before any further consideration.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST, WASHINGTON, at a regular meeting thereof this 8th day of December 2020.

APPROVED:

Hunter T. George, Mayor

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ATTEST:

Jayne Westman, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael B. Smith, City Attorney