

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION No. 2023-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COUNTY-WIDE FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IN ALL CANYONS

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County (the “*County*”) historically has provided the majority of the funding for fire and emergency services (the “*Services*”) in Millcreek Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon (the “*Eastside Canyons*”) because they are considered recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the County’s adopted 2023 budget and projected 2024 budget include decreased funding of \$647,000 (in 2023) and \$1,290,000 (in 2024) for the Services in the Eastside Canyons; and

WHEREAS, the County’s 2023 and 2024 budgets do not include any funding for fire and emergency services in any canyons in the Oquirrh Mountains along the west side of Salt Lake County (the “*Westside Canyons*”) (the Eastside Canyons and the Westside Canyons are, collectively, the “*Canyons*”) despite that recreational use of those canyons is increasing; and

WHEREAS, the shortfall between the actual cost of the Services (estimated at \$6.69 Million in 2023) and Salt Lake County’s contribution has been shared by property taxes assessed against the residents of the United Fire Service Area (“*UFSA*”), which includes Alta, Brighton, Copperton, Eagle Mountain, Emigration Canyon Township, Kearns Township, Magna Township, Midvale, Millcreek, Taylorsville, White City Township, and unincorporated Salt Lake County; and

WHEREAS, Unified Fire Authority data shows that calls for Services in the Eastside Canyons, at least, are disproportionately attributable to the estimated four million visitors to those canyons annually; and

WHEREAS, the County’s decreased funding for the Services will have one of three results:

(1) Decrease in the level of Services in the Canyons, resulting in delayed response times of at least 30 minutes depending on traffic and weather;

(2) Disproportionately saddling the 285,000 UFSA residents with the funding shortfall when 1.2 Million County residents, and many visitors, utilize and benefit from the Canyons and their recreation areas; or

(3) Implement a special service area or similar in Alta and Brighton to fund the shortfall even though those residents already are paying to receive the Services through their membership in UFSA;

and

WHEREAS, consequently, it has been proposed that (a) the additional financial burden created principally by visitors to the Canyons should be shared by all those who enjoy the benefits of the Canyons and might need Services while in the Canyons, and (b) the County therefore should not reduce its financial contribution for the Services but instead should increase the County's contribution to cover the current shortfall in providing Services in all of the Canyons; and

WHEREAS, consequently, CWC's Board of Commissioners (the "*Board*") met in regular session on 9 January 2023 to consider, among other things, encouraging the County to increase the County's contribution to cover the current shortfall in providing Services in all of the Canyons, including amending the County's 2023 budget for that purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that the CWC encourages the County to increase the County's contribution to cover the current shortfall in providing Services in all of the Canyons, including amending the County's 2023 budget for that purpose.

This Resolution, assigned no. 2023-04, shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of January 2023.

ATTEST:

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

By: _____
Jeff Silvestrini, Secretary

By: _____
Christopher F. Robinson, Chair of the Board

VOTING OF THE BOARD:

Roger Bourke	Yea ___ Nay ___
Dan Knopp	Yea ___ Nay ___
Erin Mendenhall	Yea ___ Nay ___
Christopher Robinson	Yea ___ Nay ___
Jeff Silvestrini	Yea ___ Nay ___
Michael Weichers	Yea ___ Nay ___
Nann Worel	Yea ___ Nay ___
Monica Zoltanski	Yea ___ Nay ___

DEPOSITED in the office of the Secretary this 9th day of January 2023.

FILED AND RECORDED this 9th day of January 2023.