



LETTERS | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

I'm not paying for fire services to respond to social needs

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South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Chief Jeff Faucett has indicated that [a levy is needed to support the rapid growth here in South Kitsap.](#)

As I witnessed SKFR responding to a parked RV medical emergency in Port Orchard City limits, two EMT units and two fire trucks arrived, followed by four Port Orchard police units. EMTs addressed the issue, as Port Orchard police stood by and watched as back up to fire units.

Apparently, SK Fire and Rescue are the first responders engaging homeless RV encampments, tent encampments within South Kitsap and Port Orchard city limits. Appears the Port Orchard Police Department, Kitsap County Health Department, Kitsap County Commissioners, Washington State Legislature are not willing to address the real problem, which is mental health, drug and alcohol addiction, all of which lead to crime and homelessness which is the rapid growth in our communities.

Until law enforcement agencies are once again allowed to protect, serve the general public, SK Fire and Rescue should not be asking for a levy increase to support rapid growth of encampments. As I witnessed the RV homeless rescue call last week, I realized SKFR does not need to put forth a levy request, but should be lobbying for safer communities through better policing. The only way to solve this is through legislative action, and not a fire levy increase. I'll be voting no on the SKFR levy on August 1.

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