**News Release**

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**City of Kenmore to hold public hearing on proposed franchise agreement with Northshore Utility District Feb. 10**

Kenmore, Wash. (February 4, 2014) – The Kenmore City Council invites the public to provide comments on the proposed franchise agreement for water and sewer services with the Northshore Utility District at a public hearing on Monday, February 10, 7:30 p.m. at Kenmore City Hall, 18120 68th Ave NE.

The City of Kenmore does not currently own and operate water and sewer utilities and instead grants a franchise allowing Northshore Utility District (NUD) to provide water and sewer utilities to Kenmore residents and businesses. The City’s current franchise agreement with NUD was adopted in 2003 and needs to be updated to clarify responsibilities among entities and reflect changes in state law.

The franchise agreement addresses costs the City incurs for operating a franchise, including administration costs and impact on City infrastructure. To help recover these costs, a 5% franchise fee is included in the proposed franchise agreement with NUD. It is expected that customers will see a corresponding increase in their water and sewer utility bills. A franchise fee is common in franchise agreements of this type.

Final consideration and potential adoption is scheduled for the February 24, 2014 City Council meeting. Should Council adopt the franchise on February 24, it will likely take effect March 10, 2014. The term of the agreement is through December 31, 2016 and shall automatically be extended an additional five years, unless either NUD or the City gives the other party written notice of non-renewal.

The proposed franchise agreement and franchise fee with NUD has been part of City Council discussions since 2012, including during the 2013-2014 biennial budget public review process.

More information is available on the City Council’s Feb. 10 meeting agenda at [www.kenmorewa.gov/council](http://www.kenmorewa.gov/council).

**About Kenmore, Washington**

Located at the northern tip of Lake Washington, Kenmore is an economically healthy city in King County where innovative businesses soar without limits. Kenmore is building an innovation hub to attract and support health care and technology start-ups, as well as help existing multigenerational businesses seeking to expand. As the best-kept secret in the Puget Sound, Kenmore has many benefits: family-friendly neighborhoods; abundant parks and natural spaces; a variety of cultural activities; award-winning public school system; access to higher education; and the finest close-in medical care. The city’s central location and ease of access by highway, seaplane or boat, make it an easy place to live and work. For more information, visit: [www.kenmorewa.gov](http://www.kenmorewa.gov).