

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Sheriff

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MEMORANDUM

Robert Jonsen
Sheriff

TO: Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara
James Williams, County Executive
Curtis Boone, Acting Clerk of the Board

FROM: Sheriff Robert Jonsen

SUBJECT: Item #9- Closure of San Jose Regional Medical Center

DATE: April 16, 2024

I write this memo to express my concern regarding the announced closure of the trauma unit at San Jose Regional Medical Center (RMC) and the potential impacts to public safety. San Jose's RMC is one of only three trauma centers in the county that provides emergency trauma care for individuals suffering gunshot wounds, stab wounds, and other acute life threatening injuries. San Jose RMC serves an average of 2,450 individuals in medical crisis each year, and it is particularly critical for those residing along the eastern portions of Santa Clara County due to its proximity.

Traumas in general are classified as Blunt or Penetrating. According to data provided by Santa Clara County EMS, in 2023, Regional Medical Center saw 2,285 Blunt injuries and 179 Penetrating injuries. For the Penetrating injuries, 52 were gunshot wounds, 87 were stab wounds, 34 were other types of penetrating injuries, and 2 were impalements. RMC trauma center doctors are experienced, seasoned trauma surgeons that give victims and patients an optimal chance to survive.

Response time for treating potentially mortal injuries is absolutely critical. Among other apprehensions, I am concerned that if these patients require additional travel time to one of the other two trauma centers within this large county, that there could be an adverse effect on the survivability rate for victims of violent crime and the general public involved in accidents.

San Jose Police Chief Paul Joseph and I share the concern of County Administration regarding the closure of the San Jose Regional Medical Center trauma unit and its potential impacts to public safety. We will wholeheartedly support any effort that can be made to help retain RMC as a vital, critical component of health care services within Santa Clara County.