



Jason Schoonover, President
Milpitas FD
*Liaison to Fire Marshals / Fire
Prevention Section*
Section

Geo Blackshire, Secretary
Palo Alto FD
Liaison to EMS Section

Jim Wyatt
Gilroy FD
*Liaison to SHSGP Anti-Terrorism
Approval Authority*

Ruben Torres
Santa Clara FD
*Liaison to Santa Clara County
Operational Area
Council/Silicon Valley Regional
Interoperability Authority
(SVRIA) PIO Subsection*

Daniel Pistor
Sunnyvale Department of
Public Safety *Liaison to Law
Enforcement Chiefs*

Juan Diaz
Mountain View FD
Liaison to Operations Section

Unknown (02/01/2024)
NASA-Ames Research Center
Liaison to Emergency Managers

Suwanna Kerdkaw
Santa Clara County FD
*Liaison to CICCIS Program &
Santa Clara County FireSafe
Council. Treasurer to SCCFCA*

Robert Sapien
San Jose FD
Liaison to Safety Committee

Baraka Carter
South Santa Clara County Fire
District / Morgan Hill Fire
Department
*Liaison to Cal Fire and State of
California & Training Officers
Section*

Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association

A Chapter of California Fire Chief's Association

SENT VIA EMAIL

April 10, 2024

Hon. Susan Ellenberg, President
County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding, 11th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Supervisor Ellenberg,

On March 19, 2024, the Health and Hospital Committee heard Item #13¹ which included a recommendation to extend the County's agreement with Rural/Metro (AMR) for a three-year period. The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association (Association) strongly opposes this proposed extension as EMS system reform is urgently needed to address the provider's underperformance which has resulted in a serious and persistent strain on communities and first responder fire agencies in the County.

Further, the Administration's recommendation cites the need "to allow sufficient time to collect data and assess recent EMS system enhancements to inform a future RFP" and time is sought due to legal/regulatory uncertainty, sufficient time to explore alternative service delivery models, and EMS system stabilization in the wake of recently announced service reductions at Regional Medical Center. The Association finds that none of the cited "enhancements" or other reasons cited for additional time address the provider's failure to adequately perform services material to those specified in the provider's agreement with the County.

The Association's assessment is that it is the 10 contracted fire service first responder agencies that have prevented complete ambulance system failure at a substantial cost to their respective cities. First, to compensate for the lack of ambulance availability, several cities within the County have resorted to purchasing and deploying ambulances to provide patient transport including San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas and Gilroy. Secondly, routinely, to maintain ALS care, fire departments are at reduced staffing levels while firefighter paramedics escort patients to emergency rooms on the provider's BLS ambulances.

The Association urges the Board of Supervisors to recognize the urgent need for EMS system reforms by rejecting the proposed three-year agreement extension and directing an expedited action plan to effectively manage County's agreement with AMR before any short-term extension is considered.

¹ Receive report from the Office of the County Executive and the Emergency Medical Services Agency relating to the 911 Emergency Ambulance Services contract. (LA-1)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Schoonover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Schoonover, President

Cc: Sylvia Arenas, District 1 Supervisor
Cindy Chavez, District 2 Supervisor
Otto Lee, District 3 Supervisor
S. Joseph Simitian, District 4 Supervisor
James R. Williams, County Executive
Curtis Boone, Acting Clerk of the Board