



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Fire Department  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** June 15, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief / Fire Warden  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer  
Woody Enos, Operations Deputy Chief

**SUBJECT:** Fire Protection District Sikorsky HH-60L Firehawk/Copter 964, Acceptance of Cash Donation Greater than \$10,000

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Fire Department to accept a cash donation of \$52,350, from Direct Relief, a non-profit organization; and
- b) Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are the creation of a governmental funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The recommended action for the Board of Supervisors to accept the referenced cash donation is in accordance with California Government Code Section 25355, and Policies & Procedures for the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts to the County. The Fire Department received a generous donation from Direct Relief in the amount of \$52,350. The funds will be used to offset the fixed belly tank capital improvement costs for the Sikorsky HH-60L Firehawk. The scope of work includes de-modification of

military specific equipment, major airframe maintenance, mission specific airframe modifications, replacing avionic equipment and painting the aircraft.

**Background:**

On December 11, 2018, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a 2004 Sikorsky HH-60L Blackhawk helicopter. Since its purchase, the Blackhawk helicopter has undergone a full retrofit with all-new state of the art avionics, paint, and a new rescue hoist. In addition to the upgrades, the helicopter was tested, certified and transformed from a military-grade helicopter to a helicopter configured to meet the missions of public safety for the citizens of Santa Barbara County. The build-up was completed in October of 2020.

On November 17, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement between the County and United Rotorcraft, for the installation of a fixed belly tank on the Sikorsky HH-60L helicopter to carry and disperse water for firefighting purposes. The fixed tank requires a modification of the landing gear to raise the aircraft in order to accommodate a 1,000-gallon water tank.

On December 4, 2020, Direct Relief hosted an online Firehawk update meeting for their private donors. Direct Relief's dedicated fundraising efforts resulted in a total donation \$52,350 designated for the Firehawk fixed belly tank. Once the fixed-belly tank modifications are complete, the Firehawk is expected to be operationally ready to respond to all fire-related missions in Summer 2021.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact; anticipated donations budgeted in the FY 2020-21 adopted budget.

**Special Instructions:**

None.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Direct Relief Donation Backup Letter

**Authored by:**

Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer

**cc:**

Woody Enos, Operations Deputy Chief  
Anthony Stornetta, Air & Wildland Battalion Chief