

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment



From: Courtney Pollock <courtney@prevailtogether.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 1:59 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Proposal to Donate Unused Ambulances to Ukraine

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Dear Honorable Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming decision on the disposition of Santa Barbara County's unused ambulances, as noted in the recent Edhat article. I strongly urge the Board to consider donating these vital vehicles to non-profit organizations operating in Ukraine, where emergency medical transport is critically needed due to the ongoing conflict.

As someone deeply involved in humanitarian and medical response efforts, I have witnessed firsthand the dire need for well-equipped ambulances in regions where medical infrastructure has been devastated. My organization, Prevail, operates exclusively in Ukraine, providing mine risk education, medical care, stabilization, and evacuation services in high-risk areas. These ambulances, though retired from service in Santa Barbara County, could save countless lives if repurposed for frontline medical support.

The conditions in Ukraine are relentless, with frequent missile strikes, hazardous roads, and a high rate of vehicle accidents severely impacting emergency response capabilities. Ambulances are constantly at risk—just this past week, one of our ambulances was hit by another vehicle, causing \$10,000 in damage and taking it out of service for three weeks. Days later, the clutch failed on our only other operational ambulance. These incidents exemplify how Ukraine "eats vehicles," making reliable replacements an absolute necessity for sustaining life-saving operations.

Numerous successful initiatives have demonstrated the impact of such donations, with U.S. municipalities and private donors contributing essential emergency vehicles to regions in crisis. By choosing to donate these ambulances, Santa Barbara County would not only be making a meaningful humanitarian contribution but also ensuring these vehicles continue to serve those in desperate need rather than being sold at auction or left unused.

If the Board is open to considering this proposal, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss the logistics of such a donation, including transport arrangements and coordination with trusted partners on the ground in Ukraine. I am available at your earliest convenience to begin this conversation and provide any necessary information to facilitate the process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I sincerely hope the Board will take this opportunity to make a profound difference in the lives of those affected by conflict and medical shortages.

Sincerely,

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Courtney Pollock

Co-founder | Vice Chairwoman

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