

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Garry Mac Pherson <gmacpherson@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 3:01 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter of Support SBCO Fire Department - Paramedic Services
Attachments: Letter to Ms. Van Do-Reynoso, PhD.pdf



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Clerk of the Board,
Please include in tomorrow's Board Packet, Item D-4 - Ambulance Service Contract Policy Resolution and Ambulance Service Update. Thank you in advance.



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DIST

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May 9, 2022

Ms. Van Do-Reynoso, PhD
Director of Santa Barbara County Public Health

Dear Ms. Do-Reynoso,

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my support for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department's delivery of Paramedic Services. The SBCO Fire Department has served the emergency response needs of the UCSB campus for many years and has done so with a "dedicated" campus Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic Ambulance. Personnel assigned to this ambulance are also cross trained as Firefighters and serve as part of the minimal standards of cover required by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for first alarm fire responses. It is my understanding that an alternative service model is being considered, which may increase response times by locating a paramedic ambulance off campus or placing it in a "systems status" role. I would not consider this approach an equivalent or acceptable alternative.

The UCSB campus also engages in an EMT Training Program in cooperation with SBCO Fire Department and a field internship program that allows student interns to ride along on dedicated paramedic ambulances to obtain field training experience that will elevate their current certifications from Certified Basic Life Support Providers to Certified Advanced Life Support providers. To date, hundreds of our students have participated in these programs resulting in acceptance into paramedic agencies, both private and public, and even medical schools.

The UCSB Campus has housed the SBCO Fire Department Station 17 equipment and staffing for many years. The coordinated responses with our UCSB Police Department (located next door) on incidents that occur on campus and with the Isla Vista Foot Patrol in Isla Vista, work well because of our day-to-day relationships. These relationships are especially important when large annual events such as Halloween or Deltopia occur. We have seen how challenging these events have been to manage and have learned what can be done to cooperatively mitigate the less desirable outcomes.

Lastly, it is my understanding that if we were to lose the current emergency response structure established by the 2010 Cooperative Agreement for Fire Protection, Emergency Response, and Paramedic Services between the County of Santa Barbara and the University of California, Santa Barbara – the campus could incur substantial additional cost to maintain current fire suppression service levels.

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As someone who has served as a fire service leader in EMS for 33 years, and now a Higher Education Administrator, I understand the importance of these contracts, the services they assure, and the challenges of changing service providers. Thank you for your efforts in addressing this matter, we look forward to working with you and your team to provide a safer community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry Mac Pherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Garry Mac Pherson
Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

cc: Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief