



Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Phil Petit <ppetit@nage.org>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:00 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Special Meeting, May 31, 2022
Attachments: IAEP Statement Re RFP Special Meeting.pdf
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Honorable Clerk Holland,

Attached please find public comment submitted by the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics, SEIU Local 5000 in regards to the County Board of Supervisors special meeting scheduled for May 31, 2022 at 11 am PST. This is in regards to the RFP discussion for Emergency Medical Services in County.

Sincerely,

Philip Petit
National Director, IAEP/SEIU Local 5000



International Association of EMTs and Paramedics

A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

May 27, 2022

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: RFP for Emergency Medical Services

Members of the Board:

The International Association of EMTs and Paramedics (SEIU Local 5000) proudly represents the EMS professionals of Local R12-070 employed by American Medical Response (AMR) in Santa Barbara. As a proud partner with AMR in Santa Barbara County for over a decade, we have cooperated to improve the working lives of these first responders and to ensure your constituents receive the best emergency care possible. It is because of this long-standing partnership, and the quality of care which they provide, that we strongly endorse AMR as the best candidate for Santa Barbara's primary EMS provider.

Regardless of the provider chosen by this board however, our members remain committed to serving the people of Santa Barbara as they have done for many years. Those same members of Local 70, as your neighbors, heroes, constituents and local first responders, are deeply concerned about the upcoming RFP process and the recent statements made by representatives of area fire departments before this governing body.

While we must first thank you for including employment protection in the draft RFP for EMS services, fire department representatives would have you believe this language is detrimental to the process, and the IAEP could not disagree more. This protection is critical to the dedicated EMS first responders already serving your community as well as the stability of Santa Barbara's emergency services system. A committed, cohesive and experienced workforce with intimate knowledge of the area and the patients they serve is an invaluable resource worth years of careful cultivation. It cannot be chopped up and sold off with any hope of achieving results.

As many are aware, there is also a crisis of personnel in the EMS industry today. In addition to a severe lack of available labor in EMS, pay rates are on the rise and causing many units to operate at limited capacity. With the prospect of a costly, difficult, and potentially disastrous workforce rebuilding period, we hope the employment protection policies are kept intact for the sake of Santa Barbara's public health.

Respectfully,

Philip Petit
National Director, IAEP / SEIU Local 5000

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