



## *San José Fire Department*

ROBERT SAPIEN, JR., FIRE CHIEF

SENT VIA EMAIL

November 11, 2022

Supervisor S. Joseph Simitian, Chairperson  
Santa Clara County Health and Hospital Committee  
70 West Hedding Street  
San José, CA 95110

**RE: Health and Hospital Committee, November 9, 2022 Agenda Item 8.a: Receive report from Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS) relating to the EMS 2022-2024 Ambulance Services Request for Proposals Process (ID# 113408)**

Dear Chairperson Simitian,

I had opportunity to monitor the 11/9/2022 presentation provided by County EMS Agency staff regarding the 2022-2024 Ambulance Services Request for Proposals Process and the ensuing discussion. After many months of time and significant resources invested to support the EMS Stakeholder Group's work to identify the array of EMS service options, I was very disappointed to hear Administration recommend that the County pursue the status quo private provider model, essentially disregarding the stakeholder's work, the role of fire first responder agencies, and the many opportunities possible to improve a failing ambulance system.

At present, it is the 10 contracted fire service first responder agencies in the County that are preventing ambulance system failure. For example, San José Fire Department (SJFD) is bearing severe burden to ensure that life-saving services remain available for our residents. In September and October alone, SJFD has had to provide firefighter paramedics on 152 transports where no paramedics were available from the private provider, and had to provide full ambulance transport services 125 times where no private ambulances were readily available.

As the EMS 2022-2024 Ambulance Services Request for Proposals Process proceeds, I urge that all system model options remain open to potential bidders to ensure a better future for our EMS system.

Respectfully,

Robert Sapien, Jr.

Cc: Supervisor Otto Lee, Vice Chairperson, SCCo Health and Hospital Committee  
Leland Wilcox, Assistant City Manager – City of San José  
Jackie Lowther, Santa Clara County EMS Agency Director  
George Huang, President – Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association / CalFire Santa Clara County Unit Chief