Date: September 18, 2015

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager

From: Michael A. DuRee, Fire Chief

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Weekly Update -- Termination of Rapid Medic Deployment Program

On August 26, 2015, the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency) notified the Long Beach Fire Department that they were terminating the Rapid Medic Deployment (RMD) Pilot Project and that, by October 1, 2015, the Department must return to the previous staffing model of two Paramedics on all Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances. On September 1, 2015, the City Council directed the Fire Department to provide weekly updates on the status of returning to our pre-RMD staffing configuration. This memorandum represents the third of these weekly updates.

During the week beginning September 14, 2015, the Fire Department made the following progress toward returning to our pre-RMD staffing configuration:

- Began to conduct a preliminary analysis of the data provided by our apparatus deployment system (Deccan program) to determine the most effective placement of our emergency response apparatus to respond to emergency medical calls. As noted last week, we are looking at the details of approximately 180,000 calls for service from the past three years. The evaluation of data is a very complex process and the data provided thus far has been inconclusive as to the optimum location of each Paramedic Ambulance and Paramedic Assessment Unit (fire engine with a Paramedic). Therefore, on October 1, 2015, the Fire Department will place Paramedic Ambulances and Paramedic Assessment Units at their respective pre-RMD (July 9, 2014) locations, which was an effective and proven deployment model prior to the implementation of RMD. (Please see attached.) The Fire Department will continue to evaluate the data over the course of the next year and ensure that apparatus is placed in locations that will have the greatest impact on response times;

- Received a letter from the EMS Agency on September 16, 2015 (attached), which was a follow-up to the August 25, 2015, RMD Pilot Project termination letter. The September 16 letter acknowledges the efforts of the Long Beach Fire Department in initiating and implementing the RMD Pilot Project, and states: "We appreciate your dedication through the lengthy approval process and the immense effort put forth to comply with all of the requests of the EMS Agency and the EMS Commission and to ensure quality patient care was maintained throughout the program.";
➢ Began the process for all Firefighters, Paramedics, and Ambulance Operators to “rebid” or be reassigned to different apparatus under the pre-RMD staffing configuration;

➢ Continued to evaluate the future need to send Firefighters to Paramedic School; and,

➢ Continued working with the Fire Communications Center to reconfigure their dispatch systems and processes to correlate with new apparatus locations.

Over the next two weeks, the Fire Department will continue to focus its efforts on returning to a pre-RMD staffing configuration and will be completed with the process by October 1, 2015. The Fire Department will continue to provide weekly updates to the City Council.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at 570-2505.

Attachments

cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
    Laura L. Doud, City Auditor
    Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
    Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
    Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager
## ATTACHMENT

### APPARATUS AT GENERAL FUND FIRE STATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Apparatus</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Engine, BLS Ambulance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22</td>
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</table>
September 16, 2015

Michael DuRee  
Fire Chief  
Long Beach Fire Department  
3205 Lakewood Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90806

RAPID MEDIC DEPLOYMENT PILOT PROJECT

Dear Chief DuRee:

This letter is in follow up to the August 26, 2015 letter concerning the termination of the Rapid Medic Deployment (RMD) Pilot Project, in which the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency outlined the reasons for project termination.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Long Beach Fire Department, under your leadership, to the pilot project. The pilot project was approved in July 2014 and was in effect for just over one year. However, the preparation and protocol development began in 2012. Hundreds of man-hours were devoted to this project, particularly for planning, training, data management, quality assurance, and reporting.

Long Beach Fire Department has long been a leader in our EMS system. From studies on intubation and standing field treatment protocols to expanding the scope of practice for lifeguards, your department should be commended for their desire to drive the future of EMS through innovative programs and pilot projects. We appreciate your dedication through the lengthy approval process and the immense effort put forth to comply with all of the requests of the EMS Agency and the EMS Commission and to ensure quality patient care was maintained throughout the program.

Although the RMD program had difficulties that led to early termination, the pilot project has added significant value to the EMS system. The level and quality of the data, as collected by Long Beach Fire Department, has allowed for a detailed understanding of the benefits and shortcomings to this alternate staffing model within our system. Future decisions and projects will be evaluated and implemented based on lessons learned from the RMD program.

Sincerely,

Cathy Chidester  
Director  
Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD  
Medical Director

CC

c: City Manager, City of Long Beach   
Medical Director, Long Beach Fire Department  
Health Deputy, Fourth District  
Director, DHS  
EMS Commission