Date: September 4, 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 Medical Deployment Program

On August 26, 2015, the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency notified the Long Beach Fire Department that they were terminating the Rapid Medical 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 first of these weekly updates.

During the week beginning August 31, 2015, the Fire Department made the following progress toward returning to our pre-RMD staffing configuration:

➢ Began utilizing our apparatus deployment system (Deccan program) to determine the best placement of apparatus. This will result in a data-driven decision on where the Paramedic Ambulances and Paramedic Assessment Units (fire engines with a Paramedics) will be located once we revert to the pre-RMD staffing configuration;

➢ Worked with Human Resources Department management to initiate the meet and confer process with the International Association of Machinists and the Firefighters Association to discuss the impacts of returning to pre-RMD staffing (letters attached);

➢ Began conducting an analysis of current staffing levels to determine how many Firefighter-Paramedic positions will be changed to Firefighter positions;

➢ Began an analysis of how many Ambulance Operator positions will be needed and how that relates to the current staffing model;

➢ Began to evaluate the need for a Fire Academy in Fiscal Year 2016;

➢ Began to evaluate the future need to send Firefighters to Paramedic School;
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➢ Prepared to issue memoranda to all sworn Fire staff and Ambulance Operators notifying them of the process for “rebidding” or being reassigned to different apparatus once we revert to the pre-RMD staffing configuration;  

➢ Began working with the Fire Communications Center to reconfigure their dispatch systems and processes to correlate with new apparatus locations; and,  

➢ Began evaluating the number of Basic Life Support (BLS) units needed once we revert to the pre-RMD staffing model.

In the coming 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
September 2, 2015

Rex Pritchard, President
Long Beach Firefighters Association
3333 E. Spring Street, Suite 222
Long Beach, CA 90806

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

The City of Long Beach Fire Department has recently been directed by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency to "stop" the Rapid Medic Deployment (RMD) Pilot Project. As such, the City will discontinue its implementation of the RMD.

In accordance with Government Code Section 3505, the City will meet and confer with the Association promptly and in good faith, upon the Association's request, regarding the effects of the termination of the pilot program. If you wish to meet and confer over the effects, please contact me at (562) 570-6243 no later than Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kenneth A. Walker
Manager, Labor Relations

cc: Deborah R. Mills, Director of Human Resources
    David Honey, Manager, Administration, Fire Department
CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

DEBORAH R. MILLS
DIRECTOR

September 2, 2015

Richard Suarez
Grand Lodge Representative, Western Territory
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
District Lodge 947
535 W. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90806

Dear Mr. Suarez:

The City of Long Beach Fire Department has recently been directed by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency to "stop" the Rapid Medic Deployment (RMD) Pilot Project. As such, the City will discontinue its implementation of the RMD.

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Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Walker
Manager, Labor Relations

cc: Deborah R. Mills, Director of Human Resources
    David Honey, Manager, Administration, Fire Department
    Dan Gonzalez, President, IAM Local Lodge 1930
    Matthew McKinnon, GLR IAM DL 930
    Sel Vasquez, President, IAM DBR
    Dave Sterling, IAM, Business Representative