



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 40 (Rodriguez)—Emergency Medical Services

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 40. This bill would require every local EMS agency, by July 1, 2024, to develop a 30-minute standard, 90% of the time, for ambulance patient offload time (APOT). This bill would also require hospitals to develop, file, and annually update APOT reduction protocols. The City supports legislation that improves municipal public safety services, including emergency medical services.

The Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) provides critical ambulance services for the safety, health, and wellness of the Long Beach community. Over the past six months, the LBFD Advanced Life Support (ALS) units have completed 8,100 patient transports, roughly averaging between 1,200 to 1,400 patients per month. Furthermore, the LBFD Basic Life Support (BLS) units have completed 5,138 patient transports, roughly averaging between 800 to 900 patient transports per month. Nearly 35 percent of these patient transports have yielded an APOT of greater than 45 minutes, requiring Ambulance Operators to remain at medical emergency departments while waiting for the patient to transfer from LBFD care to the receiving medical emergency department. These wait times have detrimental impacts on public safety when units are not available to respond to other emergency calls, creating a backlog, delaying response times, and increasing dependence on mutual aid.

AB 40 will enhance care for patients who need to use emergency medical services. Furthermore, AB 40 will ensure that emergency response personnel return to the field in a timely manner and are available to respond to the next call. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District