

City of Long Beach

Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: September 18, 2015

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *PH West*

From: Michael A. DuRee, Fire Chief *WD*

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

<u>Station</u>	<u>Apparatus</u>
1	Engine, Truck, ALS Ambulance
2	Engine, ALS Ambulance
3	Engine, BLS Ambulance
4	Paramedic Assessment Engine, BLS Ambulance
5	Paramedic Assessment Engine
7	Engine, Truck
8	ALS Ambulance
9	Engine, ALS Ambulance
10	Engine, ALS Ambulance
11	Engine, Truck, ALS Ambulance
12	Paramedic Assessment Engine, BLS Ambulance
13	Engine, ALS Ambulance
14	Paramedic Assessment Engine
17	Paramedic Assessment Truck
18	ALS Ambulance
19	Paramedic Assessment Engine
22	Paramedic Assessment Engine



September 16, 2015

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
First District

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Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael DuRee
Fire Chief
Long Beach Fire Department
3205 Lakewood Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90808

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.

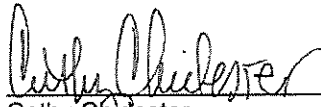
Although the RMD program had difficulties that led to early termination, the pilot project has added significant value to the EMS system. The level and quality of the data, as collected by Long Beach Fire Department, has allowed for a detailed understanding of the benefits and shortcomings to this alternate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


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*To ensure timely,
compassionate and quality
emergency and disaster
medical services.*

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



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>