



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Ruben Torres

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:
COMBINED FIRE/EMS
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

DATE: May 16, 2014

Approved

Date

5/16/14

INFORMATION

The Mayor's June 2013 Budget Message directed the Fire Department to continue efforts towards regional partnerships, specifically related to regional dispatch, and report back on the progress of these efforts during the 2014-2015 budget process.

San Jose Fire Department has been engaged in discussions with the Santa Clara County Fire Department, Mountain View Fire Department, and Palo Alto Fire Department on the feasibility for a combined Fire/Emergency Medical Systems Communications Center. These agencies currently operate independent dispatch centers, maintaining separate staffing and technological systems. In addition to handling Fire and EMS service calls, they also support non-fire related service calls for departments such as public works and animal control.

Recently, the agencies completed a draft of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to prepare a feasibility study to determine the potential for a consolidated fire communications center consisting of San Jose Fire, County Fire, Mountain View Fire and Palo Alto Fire. The study will identify advantages and disadvantages, including any associated costs, of moving out of the current dispatch configuration and into a consolidated center. The RFP also calls for exploring options that could include, but are not limited to, contracting with one of the agencies to perform system wide dispatch services or creating an independent agency.

The RFP is expected to be released by Santa Clara Fire on Monday May 19. The award of the contract is expected by August 22, 2014, with consultant work beginning September 2, 2014. The feasibility study is expected to be completed by February 2, 2015. The Fire Department will remain actively engaged in this project and will provide an update to the Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee by fall 2014.

/s/

RUBEN TORRES
Interim Fire Chief