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# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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October 7, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Mark J. Gluba, Deputy City Manager

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OPTING FOR THE CITY OF POMONA TO BE INCLUDED IN A PROSPECTIVE 2020 REVENUE MEASURE TO FUND CRITICAL FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOULD THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECIDE TO PURSUE SUCH A MEASURE**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Adopt the following resolution: RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 163 (Attachment 1) Opting for the City of Pomona to be included into consideration of the Los Angeles County Fire District's potential funding measure for fire protection and emergency services, and;
- 2) Authorize City Manager to issue a written notice and executed copy of the proposed resolution to the Fire District indicating that the City of Pomona has determined to allow voters to decide on this important funding measure and therefore authorizes the Fire District to include the City of Pomona within a 2020 ballot measure to provide critical funding for fire protection and emergency medical services.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (Fire District) is considering a potential tax measure in 2020 that would provide critical funding needed for additional paramedic services, as well as facility renovations/replacement, vehicles, updated dispatch and communication systems, and critical equipment needs to ensure the continued safety of the public and firefighters. As the City of Pomona contracts for services with the Fire District, the Fire District has reached out to determine if the City Council is desirous of opting into the Fire District's ballot measure. If the City Council agrees, Pomona voters will be allowed to vote on a funding measure that would provide additional funding for fire protection and emergency medical services. Funds raised in each fee-for-service city will be allocated to a zone to ensure that funds will be expended within the city they are generated for major fire station repairs/replacement, additional paramedic services, and offsetting costs for equipment, vehicles, dispatching and communications equipment, etc., which would be specified in a

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resolution by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that places a measure on the March or November 2020 ballot.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None with this action. However, should LA County Fire pursue ballot placement of a revenue measure, all associated costs would be the responsibility of the Fire District. Should the Council “Opt In” for inclusion into a measure, which is subsequently approved by voters, the Fire District estimates Pomona based revenues between \$4,455,000 and \$6,608,000, dependent upon the potential tax levy formulation selected by the Fire District. These revenues would assist in funding critical Fire and Emergency Medical Services within the City mitigating increases in incident levels and, offsetting increased Fire and Emergency Services costs as negotiated between the City and Fire District.

**PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION:** On January 20, 1994, the City Council approved an agreement with the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (LA County Fire). On August 6, 2012, the City Council approved an amendment to the City’s contract with the LA County Fire District to implement Fire cost and service reductions.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Since contracting with the Fire District in 1994, the number of total incidents within the City have increased by 52% (Attachment 2), with no increase in additional staffing. Analysis of calls shows that data represents a significant increase in medical incidents within Pomona. If a tax is approved by voters, the City and the Fire District will negotiate to determine appropriate staffing enhancements and Fire Station improvements to mitigate increased incident levels in the City and provide fiscally sustainable Fire and Emergency Services to address the City’s continually evolving service demands.

The Fire District last pursued and secured a revenue measure over 20 years ago with the passage of “Measure E”. This parcel tax is currently levied in all Fire District areas and any fee-for-service cities that opted in as part of that ballot measure process. As the City of Pomona did not opt in for inclusion into Measure E, the City has failed to benefit from the revenues generated through the measure, roughly estimated from Fire District calculations at \$3.4 million annually in today’s dollars, which could have augmented and stabilized Fire and Emergency Services funding within the City. Absent this additional revenue source, the costs for Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the City have been borne solely by the City’s General Fund. The Fiscal Year 2019-20 City of Pomona Adopted Fire and Emergency Services Budget is \$28,939,944.

The Fire District is currently considering placement of a measure on either the March 3, 2020 Ballot or the November 3, 2020 ballot. To meet established election deadlines, the City must advise the Fire District of their desire to opt in to the ballot measure no later than October 30, 2020, for the March election. Should a ballot measure be pursued and approved by the voters, the Fire District estimates Pomona based revenues would range between \$4,455,000 and \$6,608,000 (Attachment 3), depending the tax levy formulation determined by the Fire District. Cost for the ballot measure would be borne by the Fire District. The City Council’s agreement to opt in to the ballot measure would allow voters to decide whether or not to support additional funding for fire protection and emergency medical services.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):**

- 1) The City Council may defer action on this item to the October 21, 2019, Meeting. However, any fee for service cities wishing to opt into the measure, must indicate their position prior to October 30, 2019, should the District decide to pursue a measure as part of the March 2020 Election.
- 2) The City Council may alternatively elect not be included in the prospective ballot, continuing to fund Fire and Emergency Medical Services costs solely from General Fund revenues;

Prepared by:

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Mark J. Gluba  
Deputy City Manager

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Attachment No. 1 – Resolution No. 2019-163

Attachment No. 2 – Incident Growth for Fee for Service Cities

Attachment No. 3 – Fee for Service City Revenue Estimates Provided by LA County Fire