



City of Hemet

From the Office of the City Manager
Wally Hill

445 EAST FLORIDA AVENUE · HEMET, CALIFORNIA 92543 · (951) 765-2301

September 2014

On September 9, 2014, the City Council voted to approve a five year cooperative agreement with Riverside County Fire to provide fire and emergency medical services for the City of Hemet beginning July 1, 2015. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors passed a declaration of intent to also enter into this agreement, after they are assured labor negotiations have been completed and Hemet has initiated a paramedic program. Our staff is working closely with Riverside County Fire to ensure a seamless transition with no interruptions or reductions in these vital public safety services.

Below are some facts you should know about the Council approved agreement:

- The City Council will continue to annually decide the service levels to be provided in the City of Hemet.
- Riverside County Fire is committed to meet or exceed the City's current service levels and response times.
- Patients, or those tending to them, will begin to receive instructions from the dispatchers on how to care for the patient while they wait for the arrival of the ambulance or fire engine. This "emergency medical dispatch" service, which we do not currently provide, can help improve patient outcomes.
- Fire prevention efforts will be enhanced with a full-time Fire Safety Supervisor
- Emergency preparedness and emergency incident management will be enhanced with a half-time employee in Hemet, supplementing the experienced County Office of Emergency Services
- Riverside County Fire will staff all of the City's active fire stations and also respond to Hemet calls from nearby County fire stations
- Riverside County Fire will provide paramedic or advanced life support services; the City does not currently provide this level of service
- If the City conveys ownership of its equipment to Riverside County Fire, the City will not have to replace those vehicles. It would cost more than \$600,000 for the City to replace two engines that are near the end of their useful lives.

The City Council also directed the City Manager to work with Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE to optimize the number of Hemet Fire Department employees that can transfer to employment with them. We are very grateful for the service those professionals have provided to the City of Hemet and know that Riverside County Fire/CAL FIRE would be very wise and fortunate to have them working for them.

The City is committed to providing you responsive and quality services at the best possible price. We will continue to keep you informed as the transition process continues.