



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 63.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JUNE 16, 2010

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Report from Mr. David Slattery on the Therapeutic Hypothermia Protocol being implemented by the City of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department to improve the survival rate of cardiac arrest patients - All Ward

Fiscal Impact

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No Impact

☐

Augmentation Required

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Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Las Vegas firefighters are using cutting-edge emergency medical technology to save the lives of our citizens. By adding the therapeutic hypothermia protocol pilot program in conjunction with our rapid response times and high performing six-person teams made up of an Engine Company and Rescue/Ambulance, we have significantly increased our ability to save lives, including 25 documented code saves since January 2010.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report only, no action required.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted after Meeting Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Chart by Staff

Minutes:

GREG GAMMON, Chief of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, spoke about the new technique introduced by DR. DAVID SLATTERY, EMS Medical Director for Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, to save lives of those in cardiac arrest. This technique has had remarkable success, and he indicated that a person under cardiac arrest that survived through the use of this technique would be recognized the following month. He deferred to DR. SLATTERY.

DR. SLATTERY stated that the use of this technique was made possible through a study funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and it was presented to the Council in 2008. This was the first time in the State of Nevada to link what happens in a 911 call center to what happens with firefighters and paramedics in the field when they are able to deliver cardiac arrest patients to hospitals and link that to hospital outcomes. Prior to this technique, linking this information was possible only through very expensive, cumbersome research protocols. This system allows lives to be saved.

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Referring to a chart, a copy of which is included in the backup documentation, DR. SLATTERY indicated that survival depends greatly on where a person lives, with the biggest survival rate in Seattle, Washington, but the trend for Las Vegas is definitely increasing. The important thing to remember with cardiac arrest victims is the number of people that walk out intact and neurologically normal, which is considered a successful outcome.

There remains much work to be done, but he intends to work more closely with the community in the future and closely geo-map cardiac vulnerable populations, with a goal to increase survival. He thanked CHIEF GAMMON for allowing intense training in EMS care.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked what is propelling the success. DR. SLATTERY answered that a therapeutic hypothermia procedure is used with persons in cardiac arrest, in which the brain is frozen to preserve more cells for greater recovery.

COUNCILMAN REESE stated that Las Vegas Fire and Rescue has been very proactive for as long as he could remember, and he is a survivor due to EMS technicians and their training.

COUNCILMAN ROSS thanked the Chief for presenting this and taking a proactive approach to saving lives. CHIEF GAMMON answered for the Councilman that his department is one of four in the nation to implement this procedure, and he was certain Las Vegas Fire and Rescue is at the forefront locally.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON asked why not all hospitals have implemented this procedure, to which DR. SLATTERY said that it is a complicated procedure that requires a lot of infrastructure and dedication. The first responders are aware of which hospital to go to, and efforts are being made by hospitals to be equipped with this protocol.