



*Las Vegas*

Agenda Item No.: 36.

**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JULY 1, 2015**

**DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER**  
**DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL**

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

**SUBJECT:**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Report by Fire Chief William L. McDonald regarding the changes and improvements made to the emergency response deployment operation, the experience and performance of the Department and the implementation of a new delivery model for medical services - All Wards

**Fiscal Impact**

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No Impact

☐

Augmentation Required

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Budget Funds Available

**Amount:**

**Funding Source:**

**Dept./Division:**

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:**

LVFR conducted an evaluation of the prehospital care delivery model in the City of Las Vegas and proposed the implementation of recommendations from a study (ICMA) completed in 2012 and department research assisted by a prehospital care expert. System changes were implemented in March 2014 and monitored closely throughout the year. Performance, outcomes and experience resulting from the changes will be presented by staff, the progress and status of the transition to a single transport unit system.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Report only; no action required.

**BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:**

Submitted at Meeting - PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Minutes:

FIRE CHIEF WILLIAM McDONALD reviewed a detailed PowerPoint presentation which was submitted as backup, to provide an update on the City's Las Vegas Fire and Rescue (LVFR) prehospital care services program that was launched in March 2014. He gave an overview of the presentation and a history on how the prehospital care system evolved.

CHIEF McDONALD stated that the primary services provided are fire and rescue services, hazardous materials responses and prehospital care services. He reviewed the City's emergency resources, and in response to MAYOR GOODMAN'S inquiry, explained that there is one firefighter per 1,000 people; he would like to have more firefighters, but with the number they have, they are providing a great level of service as all of the firefighters, stations and units work together.

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CHIEF McDONALD reviewed the recommendations from a report commissioned by the International City Managers' Association 2012 regarding prehospital care. He also explained that historically, two transport capable units were sent to all calls with the exception of motor vehicle accidents. When looking at ways to provide better and different levels of services, and with the assistance of a prehospital expert, a new system was developed. Changes include sending one transport unit to calls and defining the types of calls that AMR will respond to and when the City will send rescue services. Transport protocols have been clearly defined, patient transports have been increased, redundancy has been reduced, revenues have been increased and the systems capacity has been evaluated.

MAYOR GOODMAN wondered if AMR or any other auxiliary responder reported back to LVFR, and CHIEF McDONALD answered in the affirmative and explained that a report is submitted each month regarding the number and types of calls they have gone on.

CHIEF McDONALD reviewed statistics regarding LVFR experience in 2013 and 2014, pointing out that in 2014 there were no fatalities due to fire. He also showed a slide with results of a 2013 community survey regarding how people felt about fire services noting that most areas of the community were very satisfied.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW thought that having no fatalities was significant, and the loss of property in relation to the number of people living in the City of Las Vegas was very low. He asked if that was due to sprinklers in buildings, and CHIEF McDONALD believed that automatic fire sprinklers are essential to improving the level of fire safety.

A chart was shown regarding survival rates for cardiac arrest in the city. The goal for resuscitation is 40 percent; the chart demonstrated that the percentage of people being resuscitated has grown from five percent in 2008 to the current rate of 30 percent.

CHIEF McDONALD resumed with the presentation and showed the results of the 2014 survey regarding fire services which indicated that the entire community was very satisfied. He reviewed the accomplishments from 2014, noting that the technical rescue team received international acclaim because they developed the rescue practices on the High Roller.

In response to MAYOR GOODMAN'S inquiry, CHIEF McDONALD stated that the City has the only bomb squad in southern Nevada.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW wondered if Clark County shared in the costs of the bomb squad as there would be crossover into their jurisdiction. CHIEF McDONALD stated that the City bears the \$2.7 million annual cost, would respond to areas outside of Clark County and is part of a task force that has resources that provide a high level of critical and special services to all of Clark County and beyond. COUNCILMAN BARLOW wondered if there would be future consideration of the other jurisdictions participating financially. CHIEF McDONALD stated that cost sharing has not been a consideration, and that the FBI provides in-kind support and other agencies provide training. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL stated that as a result of being

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the largest city in the largest region of the state, there are specialty units that the City has taken on for specific reasons. The bomb squad, the hazardous materials response team and the technical rescue team are regional assets; the City is the primary provider of those services to Clark County, and Henderson is the only other municipality that has a hazardous materials response team. A discussion item will be brought forward in the future to talk about some of the mutual and automatic aid issues being referenced. She thought that caution should be exercised though, as the region probably only needs one bomb squad; having one highly trained unit could be sufficient for the call volume. It is difficult from a fiduciary standpoint for the City of Las Vegas taxpayers to bear the burden of those costs when other taxpayers are being served as well, but the events are not isolated and there are a lot of coordinated service delivery models that the region has been working on for more than 30 years. Staff will look further into the service costs, what kind of service delivery is being provided and initiate conversations with the partner agencies.

CHIEF McDONALD clarified that the City has the only technical rescue team and the hazardous material team is classified as a type 1 team. Henderson's hazardous materials team is classified as Type 2.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked who initiates the deployment of the bomb squad, and CHIEF McDONALD explained that the current practice is that any patrol officer from any jurisdiction who has contact with something hazardous would contact Metrocomm; they will call the on-call contact person, either the bomb squad commander or armor's lieutenant, who will make the determination of who to send to the call. The bomb squad has 12 bomb technicians and one commander. MAYOR GOODMAN wondered if the bomb squad would be in a position to be at multiple sites if necessary, and CHIEF McDONALD replied that in addition to the City's bomb squad, the FBI also has four local bomb technicians.

CHIEF McDONALD reviewed the outcomes of the change which included consistent response times on medical calls, decreased response time for fire calls and the number of transports and revenue increased.

MAYOR PRO TEM ROSS thanked CHIEF McDONALD'S team on behalf of the City Council, and COUNCILMAN COFFIN thanked them for their response to his accident.