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Council to Discuss Emergency Medical Service Models

Council could issue RFQ for public-private partnership for emergency medical service patient transport. County to also discuss EMS service models today.

San José, CA – Today, the City Council will discuss a status [report](#) on the feasibility of the San Jose Fire Department assuming emergency medical services patient transport. The report provides analysis on four options for EMS services ranging from the San Jose Fire providing 100% of ambulance services to a public-private partnership for ambulance services.

The County of Santa Clara will also discuss EMS services today. In 2011, the County awarded Rural Metro the EMS contract. Under the current contract, the San Jose Fire Department provides “first response” paramedic services in San Jose, and often provides patient stabilization until Rural Metro ambulance arrives. The Rural Metro contract expires June 30, 2016 and the County is considering whether to extend the contract or issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the service. The County’s draft RFP does not currently allow for public-private delivery models, such as San Jose Fire Department partnering with a private ambulance company to provide transport services for the County.

The City of San Jose, the Santa Clara County Fire Chief’s Association and the Cities Association have submitted [letters](#) to the County asking for consideration of alternative delivery models.

Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmember Chappie Jones issued a [memo](#) for discussion today that would direct the City Manager to work with the County on their draft RFP to include language that would allow consideration of public-private partnerships.

“Other cities and counties are finding that public-private partnerships provide higher quality and more cost-effective emergency ambulance services for our residents,” said Mayor Liccardo. “I think it’s important that all options are kept on the table for consideration.”

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