

## Measure X Committee

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District respectfully requests the opportunity to make a supplemental presentation to the Measure X Committee, that will outline the benefit of our pilot program entitled Public Safety for Mental Health Initiative. We strongly believe our initiative is a transformational approach to addressing the current and growing mental health crisis through-out our communities by recognizing non-violent, 9-1-1 emergency calls for what they are, a medical emergency. The Fire District is ideally situated to provide an immediate response to those calls by highly trained EMS and Fire personnel, as opposed to a law enforcement response. The program is intended to compliment and work collaboratively with County Public Health and the Mobile Crisis Response Team by filling a critical gap between the time somebody calls for help and when they can be provided definitive care by a mental health care professional.

This pilot program has the full backing of the Fire District Board of Directors and the San Ramon City Council; along with strong interest from the Danville Town Council. By way of background and further information, included along with this request is the most recent stakeholder presentation to the Town of Danville. And just to be clear, this pilot program will be deployed in the City of Ramon, in cooperation with the San Ramon Police Department where the Fire District is responsible for dispatching both Police and Fire. We have been in discussion with the Town of Danville regarding the project and are currently reviewing the logistical challenges of how to make it work in Danville.

The District is seeking startup funds in the amount of is \$740,200 to get the pilot program up and running. These funds would be utilized for behavioral health crisis care training for all the first responders involved: fire, police and dispatchers (\$187,000). Other costs include the purchase and outfitting of one 24/7 "sprinter" ambulance for transporting patients (\$170,000) and the recruitment, training and equipping of (non-firefighter) paramedics in specialized mental health care that would be available 24-7-365 (\$283,000) to respond to non-violent mental health calls. If the pilot program is successful, the District would include the ongoing operating and capital replacement costs in future budgets.

In closing, as communities across the nation adapt to the increase in demand for better mental health care, the clear message is the need for change. Partnering with the Danville and San Ramon Police Departments, we are excited to be at the forefront of creating an efficient and effective solution; hopefully becoming a model for the rest of the state and country to follow. We are committed to making a difference in our communities, and believe this initiative will improve and promote care and advocacy for our community members suffering from a mental health crisis, and ultimately save lives.

I respectfully ask this information be submitted to the Measure X Committee for their consideration of our funding request.

Sincerely,



Paige Meyer  
Fire Chief