

County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

Public Health



HHS03 011309


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DATE: January 13, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Kim Roberts
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Salary Ordinance Amendment Adding Emergency Medical Services Specialist Position in the Public Health Department

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Introduction and preliminary adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.09.65 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.09 relating to the compensation of employees adding 1.0 Emergency Medical Services Specialist position in the Public Health Department. (Roll Call Vote to waive reading, Roll Call Vote to adopt)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. At its December 9, 2008 meeting, the Board of Supervisors accepted additional Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds and approved a request for appropriation modification to fully fund 1.0 Emergency Medical Services Specialist position in the Public Health Department, Office of Emergency Medical Services. Adoption of this salary ordinance amendment completes this action. The FY 09 cost for this new position is \$28,447, with an annualized cost of \$85,341. These costs will be fully covered with UASI funds.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The additional 1.0 Emergency Medical Services Specialist position, funded by the Office of Emergency Services (OES), Super Urban Area Security Initiative (SUASI) grant funds, will manage regional Emergency Medical Services response, planning and training projects that include medical surge, multiple patient management, and mass casualty/fatality initiatives. This position will provide input to the Bay Area SUASI project, and represent the interests City of San Jose and Santa Clara County within this subject matter area.

BACKGROUND

The UASI Program provides funding to address the unique multi-discipline planning, operations, equipment, training and exercise needs of high-threat, high density urban areas and to assist in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from threats or acts of terrorism.

UASI was created by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) in 2003. This initiative was designed to combat terrorism in the United States by targeting federal funding to the 30 high threat urban areas in 20 states. These areas were determined to be high threat because they house significant national, state or business infrastructure, governmental systems and population centers and were considered most vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Each urban area was made up of a core city (City of San Jose) and a county (County of Santa Clara) and included jurisdictions that were contiguous and had established formal mutual aid agreements. The core county was where the core city of the urban area was located.

In January 2006, DHS announced that it had combined the City and County of San Francisco, City of Oakland, City of San Jose, Alameda County, Santa Clara County and other Bay Area governmental jurisdictions into one region for the purpose of distribution of Federal Homeland Security Grant funds. DHS felt that a regional approach was more sensible for funding allocations, allowing more effective focus on geographic analysis of potential threats, rather than on jurisdictional boundaries.

The Bay Area Super UASI includes representatives from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Within its jurisdiction are seven million people and over 100 incorporated cities. The Bay Area region attracts millions of visitors each year. Some of the nation's most notable landmarks are located in the Bay Area, as well as three international airports, six professional sports teams, and the fourth busiest port in the country. In 2006, the Bay Area UASI was awarded more than \$22 million to help develop, expand, and enhance regional planning efforts, information sharing and collaboration, CBRNE Detection and Response (Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Incidents), Training and Exercise, Infrastructure Protection, Interoperable Communications, Medical Surge, Mass Prophylaxis, Public Information & Warning, Mass Care, Citizen Preparedness and Participation, and Emergency Management.

The Bay Area Super UASI is widely viewed as having an important, groundbreaking regional approach that is recognized and may be replicated throughout the state and across the country. The City and County of San Francisco currently administer the Bay Area UASI grants.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the recommended action may impact the ability of the Public Health Department to provide additional services funded by Bay Area Super Urban Area Security Initiative grant funds.

ATTACHMENTS

- Salary Ordinance Amendment No. NS-5.09.65