

From: [Ron](#)
To: [Osborne, Jenelle](#); [Ball, Jeremy](#); [Cordova, Gilda](#); [Starbuck, Dirk](#); [Vega, Victor](#)
Cc: [Haddon, Stacey](#); [Throop, Jim](#); [Welch, Alicia](#); [Mariani, Joseph](#)
Subject: Public comment and a written communication for Item #4 on the November 2nd City Council Agenda.
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Public comment and a written communication for Item #4 on the November 2nd City Council Agenda.

When providing emergency services to a community and/or a region it is only common sense that the citizens receive service promptly. In our area 3 separate and distinct organizations provide emergency medical response service, they are the Lompoc Fire City Department, SB County Fire Department and American Medical Response.

It is imperative that the taxpayer funded emergency response system resources be managed effectively to gain the maximum benefit for the community; minutes and seconds matter when life threatening emergencies occur.

The Fire Chief explains how to do this in the staff report “integrated response begins with the first 911 call and is predicated on sending the closest resource, regardless of jurisdiction without delay. One fire dispatch center for all municipal fire and EMS units in the County (resource sharing); Closest and most appropriate fire resource response regardless of jurisdiction.” In this way those minutes and seconds can be saved, and critical patient care initiated sooner.

A secondary and equal consideration is as the Fire Chief explains “Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) screening, which means 100% of calls are vetted using call type categorization, and customers are offered pre-arrival instructions by trained and qualified personnel as necessary”. This means that treatment begins when the call is placed and answered, a service that is not currently provided in Lompoc, once again saving precious minutes and seconds.

The police department budget should not be the primary concern for the City Council; life safety should be. According to the staff report the LPD would lose about \$392,500 based on the current two-year budget. However, the Fire Department would save the same amount since the cost for service would be less if you approve the Cooperative Dispatch Agreement.

I believe that approving this agreement is in the best interest of the community. Certainly, the staff can figure out how to fund the Police Department dispatch function while also supporting this request.

Ron Fink
Lompoc