

SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1

Resolution 20-521

A RESOLUTION OF SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1 TO SUSPEND INTEGRATION OF SAN JUAN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND SAN JUAN ISLAND FIRE AND RESCUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS BOTH PARTIES AGREE TO RE-ENGAGE IN THE DISCUSSION

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 (“hospital district”) to oversee and manage San Juan Island Emergency Medical Services (“SJIEMS”) to ensure that the residents and landowners of the hospital district receive adequate care for emergency medical response, critical care ground and marine transport, and advanced life support;

WHEREAS, the hospital district had previously engaged in a process of integrating SJIEMS with San Juan Island Fire and Rescue, beginning with a Citizen Advisory Group process on April 4, 2018, and then a steering committee established on April 2, 2019;

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2019, the hospital district signed the “Interlocal Agreement for Integration of Fire and EMS Administrative Services” (“ILA”) and desires to remove any confusion about whether it intends to be bound by the ILA;

WHEREAS, cancellation of the San Juan County election of April 29, 2020 has removed the opportunity for voters to make known their preference about annexation of the Town of Friday Harbor into San Juan Island Fire and Rescue, which annexation is considered by the hospital district to be an integral part of the integration of SJIEMS and San Juan Island Fire and Rescue;

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, followed in short order by similar Washington State and San Juan County declarations, and on April 8, 2020, the Board of San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 declared a public health emergency;

WHEREAS, successful response to the COVID-19 emergency requires the full attention by the hospital district and SJIEMS staff and volunteers with special emphasis on safety measures;

WHEREAS, the financial impact of the COVID-19 emergency will not be known for some months and perhaps years, and financial forecasts and a comprehensive management plan are not currently available as the situation requires;

WHEREAS, stable leadership and management of SJIEMS is essential to successful delivery of emergency medical health care services within its district, and that SJIEMS is a highly specialized emergency health care delivery service requiring an array of complicated support systems;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOSPITAL DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1 that:

- (1) The hospital district withdraws any offer constituted by the “Interlocal Agreement for Integration of Fire and EMS Administrative Services” signed by the hospital district Board on November 12, 2019.

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(2) All interagency discussion, planning, or steering committee work of integration between SJIEMS and San Juan Island Fire and Rescue shall be deferred until such time as the governing bodies of both organizations agree to resume discussions.

(3) No outside Agency shall be involved in administration of EMS.

We appreciate the dedicated work of staff and our partners through this project and the COVID-19 crisis. We also appreciate the hard work of the Citizen’s Advisory Group and members of the public who have been involved in the process.

Adopted this ____ day of May 2020.

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner