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City of
Richmond

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

July 31, 2007

Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Ms. Olga Jones, Foreperson
725 Court Street
P. O. Box 911
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Madam Foreperson:

In accordance with Section 933.5(a), these are the responses to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury included in the Grand Jury letter dated May 18, 2007.

Findings:

2. Respondent agrees with the finding.
5. Respondent agrees with the finding.
6. Respondent agrees with the finding.
7. Respondent agrees with the finding.
8. Respondent partially disagrees with the finding. Members of the Richmond Fire Department are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). As certified EMT's, Richmond Fire personnel complete a minimum of 120 hours of classroom and clinical training. The County's ambulance franchisee, American Medical Response, sends a paramedic unit to each medical call in Richmond; however, our fire companies usually arrive first.
9. Respondent partially disagrees with the finding. Richmond Fire and Crockett Fire provide BLS. All other West County fire departments provide ALS.
10. Respondent agrees with the finding.
11. Respondent agrees with the finding.
12. Respondent agrees with the finding.

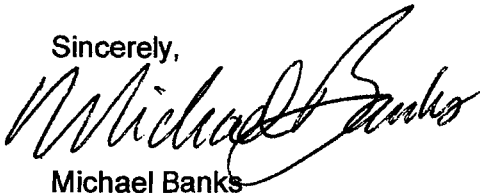
13. Respondent disagrees with the finding. For the last year, July 11, 2006- July 11 2007, when comparing auto aid responses - Richmond Fire into County jurisdiction and CCCFPD into Richmond - Richmond Fire responds into Contra Costa County areas at a ratio of 1.73 to 1.
14. Respondent disagrees with the finding. Richmond Fire and El Cerrito Fire respond to electronic fire alarms using 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 Battalion Chief. The CCCFPD responds to these alarms with two engines.
15. Respondent agrees with the finding.
16. Respondent agrees with the finding.
17. Respondent agrees with the finding.
18. Respondent partially disagrees with the finding. If all goes according to plan and the various jurisdictions continue to pursue an interoperable communication system, it may be completed within 3-5 years.
19. Respondent agrees with the finding.
20. Respondent agrees with the finding.
21. Respondent agrees with the finding.
22. Respondent agrees with the finding.
26. Respondent partially disagrees with the finding. Richmond's ratio is about one for 3875.
28. Respondent disagrees with the finding. Richmond Fire discontinued automatic aid with the county for a number of reasons. The biggest challenge was that the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District was not interested in working collaboratively with us to resolve response issues. There was also no interest in training, common dispatching, working the same shift schedule, or compensation to the city of Richmond for services provided. The Richmond Fire Department was expected to provide fire service into North Richmond, San Pablo, East Richmond Heights and El Sobrante at no cost to the County (See #26).
29. Respondent agrees with the finding.
30. Respondent agrees with the finding.

Recommendations:

1. Respondent agrees with the finding.
2. Respondent agrees with the finding.
3. Respondent agrees with the finding.
4. Respondent agrees with the finding.
5. Respondent agrees with the finding.
6. Respondent agrees with the finding.

Please contact me if you should need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Banks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michael Banks
Fire Chief

MB:dc