

CITY OF



ONTARIO

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March 29, 2019

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CITY MANAGER

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 438 – Notice of Support

Dear Senator Hertzberg,

On behalf of the City of Ontario, I am writing to express our full support for Senate Bill 438. This legislation would provide much needed guidance to clarify the scope of authorities granted to local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs), and protect the ability of public safety agencies to directly receive and administer 9-1-1 requests originating within their own jurisdictions.

Current law provides for the creation of regional and county LEMSAs to oversee the delivery of the emergency medical services (EMS) within a geographic area, and gives these agencies the ability to maintain medical control in their region. However, a number of cities across the State had preexisting EMS systems in place prior to the enactment of the EMS Act, therefore the Legislature proceeded to "grandfather" in these already existing public safety agencies as not to hinder the extensive investment made to create and fund operations. Although public safety agencies work in close coordination with their respective LEMSAs, confusion regarding who should be responsible over the direct receipt and administration of emergency calls has been a lingering issue.

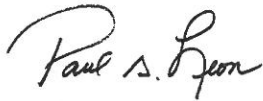
Senate Bill 438 would clear up this long-standing confusion by clarifying that medical control may not be construed to limit a public safety agency's authority to directly receive and administer emergency requests, or to determine the appropriate response and deployment of services. Control over 9-1-1 calls and how to best respond to them should be as localized as possible given our departments' extensive knowledge of the City and its residents' needs. This will help shorten response times, streamline services and potentially save countless lives. Additionally, over the

years the City of Ontario has made significant investments to the dispatching and deployment of emergency services for both the Ontario Fire and Police Departments in order to enhance the pre-hospital medical attention provided to those in need. The lack of clarity over medical control threatens our investments, and potentially discourages any future efforts to enhance services if they continue to be in jeopardy of being transferred to our respective LEMSA.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 438 clarifies that a public safety agency does not transfer its authority to provide emergency services to its LEMSA by voluntarily limiting or modifying its pre-hospital response protocols. This will help encourage and strengthen coordination between LEMSAs and public safety agencies without the potential of inadvertently losing the ability to provide services.

For these reasons, the City of Ontario strongly supports Senate Bill 438.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul S. Leon".

Paul S. Leon
Mayor

c: The Honorable Senator Connie M. Leyva
The Honorable Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez