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BFC-06-098

C-106-06

October 10, 2006

Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health Services
County of Los Angeles
313 North Figueroa Street, Suite 912
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Dr. Chernof:

Measure B Allocation Request

On November 5, 2002, the voters of Los Angeles County approved Measure B – Preservation of Trauma Centers and Emergency Medical Services: Bioterrorism Response – with assessments commencing in Fiscal Year 2003/04. The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) was charged with developing an expenditure plan for the anticipated \$170 million generated annually from the Measure B Special Tax. It is my understanding that Measure B assessment funds grew to \$177.5 million for Fiscal Year 2004/05.

As a major pre-hospital care provider, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is a crucial element of the emergency medical services (EMS) delivery system. The pre-hospital dispatch/response/treatment/transport services delivered by the LAFD serve as the lifesaving induction of the patient into the EMS system. With an LAFD EMS incident workload averaging 803 incidents daily (with an average of 272 incidents [34%] being trauma-related), the continued efficient delivery of this lifesaving continuum of care is vital.

The evolving state of emergency medical care in the County of Los Angeles continues to impact LAFD workload. With requests for pre-hospital emergency medical and trauma services escalating annually, emergency room closures exacerbate the problem with fewer available beds, longer transport distances, and extended paramedic and ambulance out-of-service times. In response to the growing demand for pre-hospital emergency medical and trauma services, in recent years the LAFD augmented our EMS capability by placing at least one 24-hour ambulance in all 103 fire station districts and at least one paramedic resource in every fire station.

In order to maintain appropriate response times and meet the expanding EMS demand, I request a \$4 million Measure B allocation (\$2 million for 2004/05 and \$2 million for 2005/06) for the LAFD, the County's largest pre-hospital care provider.

As originally written and presented to the electorate in 2002, Measure B included pre-hospital care as an intended beneficiary. The approximately 40% City of Los Angeles contribution to the two-year Measure B \$355 million generated is \$142 million. An allocation of \$4 million over two years will help the LAFD meet its increasing trauma demand and is consistent with past allocations supporting air ambulances and EMS pre-hospital care.

The Los Angeles Fire Department remains committed to partnering with the County of Los Angeles for the continued provision of the finest pre-hospital EMS services possible. To that end, it is my desire that you will favorably consider this request for a two-time \$2 million Measure B allocation for the Los Angeles Fire Department to support our EMS delivery services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William R. Bamattre", with a stylized, flowing script.

WILLIAM R. BAMATTRE
Fire Chief

cc: LA County Board of Supervisors
Carol Meyer, Director, EMS Agency
Board of Fire Commissioners