

REPORT FROM

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: October 24, 2016

CAO File No. 0220-05276-0000

Council File No. 16-0857

Council District: 4, 5, 10

To: The Mayor  
The Council

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Board of Fire Commissioners report dated August 2, 2016

Subject: **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER TO  
CREATE AN ADDITIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONER RESPONSE UNIT (NPRU)**

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to accept a donation of \$159,000 from the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center through the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation for the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Nurse Practitioner Program;
2. Authorize the Fire Department to deposit the donation into the Fire Department Trust Fund No. 848, Department 38;
3. Authorize the Controller to:
  - a. Establish an appropriation account titled EMS Nurse Practitioner Program, account number to be determined (TBD), within Fund 848/38 for the disbursement of the EMS Nurse Practitioner Program funds;
  - b. Transfer appropriations from Fund 848/38, Account TBD, EMS Nurse Practitioner Program, to the Fire Department Fund 100/38, Account No. 001010 Salaries General, and to the General Fund for reimbursement of General Fund costs as needed and as directed by the Fire Department for the salary of the EMS Nurse Practitioner and related costs;
4. Instruct the General Manager of the Personnel Department, or designee, to establish a new classification of EMS Nurse Practitioner, subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission;
5. Instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to establish the salary for the new classification of EMS Nurse Practitioner, subject to the approval of the new classification by the Civil Service Commission;

6. Authorize resolution authority for one EMS Nurse Practitioner in the Fire Department, through June 30, 2017, subject to the establishment of the new classification;
7. Authorize the Fire Department to make any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the CAO to comply with the intent of Council action on this matter, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions; and,
8. Instruct the Fire Department to report back to the Public Safety Committee within 90 days of program implementation, on the status of the Cedars-Sinai NPRU, including appropriate program metrics and related achievements or issues experienced with the program.

## **SUMMARY**

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) requests authority to staff and deploy a Nurse Practitioner Response Unit (NPRU) from Fire Station 58 in Council District 5 in a public-private partnership with Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (Cedars-Sinai) to address low-acuity 911 calls, including 911 frequent users throughout the community served by Cedars-Sinai. This deployment includes activation of a reserve ambulance, assigning one Firefighter/Paramedic to the NPRU, and creation of a new Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Nurse Practitioner classification to complete the Unit. The LAFD estimates that the one-year cost of deploying this NPRU is \$376,000, including salaries and medical supplies. Cedars-Sinai has provided a one-time donation of \$159,000, through the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, to cover the salary and related costs of the EMS Nurse Practitioner for one year. The remaining cost of \$217,000 will be absorbed within the LAFD's current budget. Approval of the LAFD's request would initiate this service through 2016-17. Continuance of the program beyond 2016-17 would be considered in the context of the annual budget process.

## **BACKGROUND**

The NPRU originated as a pilot program receiving funding from the Innovation Fund in 2014-15 (C.F. 14-0600-S49) in an effort to address low-acuity 911 calls that might be better resolved outside of a hospital emergency room. The LAFD currently operates one NPRU funded by the 2016-17 Budget and the Innovation Fund, which was put into service in January 2016. According to the LAFD, in the first six months of deployment, this NPRU responded to over 400 patients, including 370 low-acuity 911 callers, of which 53-percent were treated and released on scene, and therefore did not require an EMS transport to the emergency room. Ten frequent user patients ("super users") had a comprehensive assessment performed, with over half of the patients experiencing a decrease in their utilization of 911 ambulance services subsequent to the initial interface with the NPRU.

The proposed NPRU will operate out of Fire Station 58 and will initially be deployed four days per week for ten hours per day—consistent with one shift—for at least 46 weeks in a 12-month period. This deployment may change in order to provide the best service to the local community. The NPRU will be staffed by one Firefighter/Paramedic, at an annual direct salary cost of \$105,000, and an EMS Nurse Practitioner, the salary cost of which will be determined upon approval. Costs for medical supplies are estimated at \$112,000. The LAFD reports that it will absorb the costs of the Firefighter/Paramedic and the medical supplies within its current budget,

and will provide a reserve ambulance for the new NPRU at no additional cost. The EMS Nurse Practitioner is a newly proposed classification that will require creation, salary setting, and approval by the Civil Service Commission.

The donation for the NPRU from Cedars-Sinai is a one-time donation to cover the salary and related cost of the EMS Nurse Practitioner for one year. The donation was provided under the expectation that the NPRU would service the general area of patients attended to by Cedars-Sinai. The LAFD will request from the Mayor and Council any necessary authority and funding to continue operating the NPRU after 2016-17 and the one-year target, if the operation is successful. Further funding from Cedars-Sinai has not been discussed. It is recommended that continuance of the program beyond 2016-17 be considered in the context of the annual budget process.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approval of the recommendations will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to accept a \$159,000 donation from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, through the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, and staff and deploy an additional Nurse Practitioner Response Unit (NPRU) at an estimated one-year cost of \$376,000. The LAFD will absorb the cost of operating the NPRU within its current budget. No additional General Fund impact is anticipated for the one-year pilot. However, there is a potential General Fund impact if the program is continued beyond the pilot period. Approval of the recommendations is in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that one-time funds are used for one-time purposes.

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