

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

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Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

\*\*\*This form is a public record\*\*\*

MEETING DATE: NOV. 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

AGENDA ITEM # R1 OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: X

NAME: Ken Burns Portland Fire & Rescue

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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MEETING DATE: 11-3-16

AGENDA ITEM # R1 OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Eric Bishton

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Kris Hedden

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 16535 SE Windswept Waters Dr

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Damascus OR 97089

PHONE: (503) 704-4968 E-MAIL: Krishedden24@gmail.com

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FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: X

NAME: CHARLES SAVOIE

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: 503-652-2529 E-MAIL: CSAVOIE2001@GMAIL.COM

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AGENDA ITEM # R1 OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST:

NAME: Alli Sayre

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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AGENDA ITEM # R.1 OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: RANDY LAUER REG DIR

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: AME

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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November 3, 2016

Multnomah County Commissioners  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97214-3587

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for hearing testimony on the revised Ambulance Service Plan (ASA Plan) and County Code. We commend staff for their diligence and thoughtfulness during review and updating of these documents. By and large the changes make sense, although we believe the EMS Office missed the mark in three key areas.

First is the incorporation of response time standards for non-life threatening calls. The current standard is immediate dispatch to code-1 (no lights and siren) non-life threatening calls. Given that the closest ambulance is dispatched, the factors that influence code-1 response time are traffic and the number of red lights encountered. When responding code-3 with lights and siren, ambulances stop at red light and stop sign intersections, and then proceed through when the intersection is clear. During a code-1 response the ambulance stops and waits for the light to turn green.

The draft ASA Plan incorporates a 12-minute response time standard for non-life threatening calls, compared to an 8-minute standard for life-threatening calls. The additional 4 minutes is easily consumed waiting for lights to turn green. In its rationale for not dropping this new requirement (2016\_AMBULANCE\_PLAN\_SUMMARY\_10.28.2016, pages 3-4), the EMS Office downplays the effect of this new standard by saying there are not very many non-life threatening calls and therefore not much will actually change. However, at the same time they say 12% of the current call volume – nearly 10,000 calls per year, are non-life threatening, which has more than doubled in the last six years.

A 12-minute response time for non-life threatening calls will add costs to the system by requiring more ambulances on the street. It is important to note that 12 minutes is the emergency, life-threatening response time standard in many communities nationwide. If Multnomah County adopts a response time standard for code-1, non-life threatening calls, the standard should be no less than 20 minutes. Even so, a 20-minute standard will likely increase the cost of ambulance response, and you should consider dropping a non-life threatening/non-emergency response time altogether.

Concern #2 is the lack of adequate consideration for the men and women Paramedics who currently serve the County. The draft ASA Plan incorporates State Law for incumbent workforce protection, which is a weak standard. It primarily requires a replacement provider to give

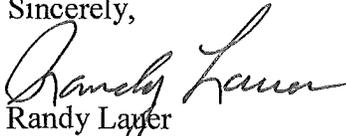


preference to incumbent workers. The “preference” standard can be met by simply granting an interview to incumbent workers – there is no requirement to hire. Today your Paramedics have a very good wage and benefits package, which has been achieved through a strong union relationship and a series of collective bargaining agreements. A bidder that can propose lower cost wages and benefits will have a competitive advantage at the expense of the men and women who have served Multnomah County for decades. The County should require a wage and benefits package that is equal to or better than the current levels.

Concern #3 is that the draft ASA Plan fails to address a problem in the current system regarding emergency medical coverage at special event venues. Today, a licensee that is not the emergency ambulance provider can offer emergency medical services without meeting the County standards for staffing, equipment and clinical protocols. The County should recognize the danger of this double-standard by adopting two licensing standards: an emergency provider license for the contracted emergency provider and a non-emergency license for all other licensees.

Thank you again for the opportunity to highlight our concerns with the draft ASA Plan. AMR and our predecessor Buck Ambulance have served Multnomah County for over a century, the last 21 years as your single emergency ambulance provider. We have been integral to the continued evolution of EMS in Multnomah County, and it continues to be our privilege to serve.

Sincerely,



Randy Lauer  
Regional Director

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
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AGENDA ITEM # R1 OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: ✓

NAME: SCOTT B. LEWIS ADMIN CHIEF

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 1333 NW EASTMAN

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Gresham, OR 97030

PHONE: 503-618-2355 E-MAIL: SCOTT.LEWIS@GRESHAMOREGON.GOV

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1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon 97030  
Phone 503-618-2355 • Fax 503-666-8330  
GreshamOregon.gov/fire

"Service...Excellence"

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November 3, 2016

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97214-3587

RE: Ambulance Service Plan

Chair Kafoury, and Members of the Commission:

On Tuesday, we learned that you would be holding your First Reading on the Multnomah County Ambulance Service Plan (ASP) and changes to the Multnomah County Code as it applies to the delivery of Ambulance Services today. On October 7th, we received the proposed changes to the current plan which has been in place since 1994. You may not be aware we were only given seven work days to develop oral comments to the 52-page ASP and the 55-page Multnomah County Code documents. One additional day was provided to submit written comments. No information was provided as to when you as the County Commission would be receiving the proposed plan changes. Deputy Chief Ken Burns with Portland Fire & Rescue, American Medical Response General Manager Randy Lauer, and myself all questioned Darrell Knott when he stated that stakeholders had been engaged in the process and given the opportunity to provide comments and input into the proposed changes to the ASP.

We have been part of several meetings about the upcoming changes to the ASP and more specifically the yet to be released Request for Proposals for the Ambulance Service Provider. In those meetings we repeatedly commented to Multnomah County EMS Staff and their consultants about the need for the local fire departments, specifically Portland and Gresham, to have a greater influence on the delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) and the transportation of our citizens to the appropriate destination.

Moreover, our concern about the ability of the Ambulance Service Provider to meet time requirements and the impact this could have on patient outcomes. Under the current and proposed ASP, we cannot provide patient transport regardless of the wait time for an ambulance. Likewise, we cannot request a closer transport unit from any other county or fire department. The proposed ASP allows for the Ambulance Service Provider to contract with the local fire agency. However, it does not require them to, regardless of their ability to meet the

needs of our community, and the contract can only be made with the approval of the EMS Administrator. In both Washington and Clackamas Counties, large Fire Districts provide this service to their communities.

It has been over 20 years since the Ambulance Service Plan and the County EMS Code have been given any consideration for substantial improvement. Short of updating language and numbering as required by the ORS or OAR, it is essentially the same Plan and County Code repackaged. I do not believe the commitment made to us by Dr. Lewis and Darrell Knott, assuring our input and consideration as the plan moved forward has been met in any meaningful way.

The ASP has a stated goal: "The response goal for urban First Responders is arrival on scene in four minutes, zero seconds or less in at least ninety percent of medical calls." The delivery of EMS in Multnomah County fails without the service provided by the Fire Service. We should be a full and equal partner in its delivery and the development of the Ambulance Service Plan.

I recommend that the Commission table this resolution and provide direction to County Staff to reengage the Fire Service providers in the County and endeavor to reach consensus moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Lewis", written in a cursive style.

Scott Lewis, Division Chief  
Gresham Fire & Emergency Service

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AGENDA ITEM # P-1 OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: JOE WALKER

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 7385 E. JUNCTION ST

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: X

NAME: Jeffrey Birre PARAMEDIC TRAINED

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: 503 459 8458 E-MAIL: j-birre@gmail.com

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FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Alan Ferschweiler PRES POX FIREFIGHTERS ASSN

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 15178 SE LA CRESCENTA WAY

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Milwaukie, OR 97267

PHONE: (971) 212-5066 E-MAIL: aferschweiler@jaff43.org

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4. Commenters are called to testify in the order forms are received. The Presiding Officer may re-arrange the order that testimony is given or ask Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
5. When your name is called, come forward and be seated at the presenter's table; state your name for the record and speak clearly into the microphone.
6. Public comment is limited to **3 minutes or less** per person unless otherwise directed by the Chair, who is the Presiding Officer.
7. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
8. If submitting handouts to be given to the Board, seven (7) copies are required. If only one (1) copy is provided, it will be received for the file and electronically shared with the Board and County Attorney after the meeting.
9. All meetings are audio and video recorded and can be viewed at: [multco.us](http://multco.us).
10. The Chair has authority to keep order and may impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with the Rules of Conduct, or who creates a disturbance, may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so, becomes a trespasser and will be treated accordingly. Copies of the Rules of Conduct are available next to the sign up sheets.

**IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD IN LIEU OF GIVING ORAL COMMENTS:**

1. Complete this form and submit it along with your written testimony to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or by e-mail at: [lynda.grow@multco.us](mailto:lynda.grow@multco.us)
2. Written testimony will be entered into and remain a part of the official permanent record.