

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
CITY OF STOCKTON  
NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:    Friday, October 1, 2010**

**County and City Reach Agreement on Emergency Medical Response**  
***Litigation Ends and Advanced Life Support to Resume***

(Stockton, CA) - San Joaquin County and the City of Stockton have reached an agreement ending years of litigation and costly court battles over the delivery of Emergency Medical Services and the dispatch of emergency medical calls. The agreement is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and the Stockton City Council at their respective meetings on Tuesday, October 5, 2010.

The litigation began in 2006 with Stockton Fire Department's refusal to transfer 9-1-1 calls for emergency medical services to Lifecom, the County's designated Emergency Medical Dispatch center, as required by the State approved Emergency Medical Services plan. If approved by both the County and the City, Stockton Police Department will begin transferring those calls to Lifecom on December 1, 2010. Stockton Fire Department will receive notification of medical calls early in the dispatch interview process so that fire paramedics and fire equipment can be dispatched by the Stockton Fire Department.

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The City and County are also poised to sign a new Advanced Life Support (ALS) Agreement on October 5, 2010. If the agreement is signed Stockton Fire Department paramedics will begin providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) when responding to medical emergencies, effective October 6, 2010.

Chairman Carlos Villapudua commented: "The settlement of these cases will bring about the fulfillment of the Board of Supervisors' goal of an integrated Emergency Medical Services system that delivers a high level of care for our communities."

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement," said Mayor Ann Johnston. "The safety of our citizens is our primary concern. Reducing expenses, such as those associated with protracted litigation is imperative, as we have a fiscal crisis and need to make the best use of taxpayer dollars."

Both the City and the County have agreed to drop lawsuits associated with EMS. The agreement states that each will pay their own legal costs. Through June of this year, the City of Stockton has spent over \$4 million in legal fees on three separate cases.

"We need to be clear that Stockton Fire Department paramedics' authority and ability to deliver Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services has nothing to do with the City's current ballot Measure H," continued Mayor Johnston. "This agreement should end that association and improve our working relationship with San Joaquin County."

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