



City of Placentia Press Release

For Immediate Release

JUNE 5, 2019

**Contact: Damien R. Arrula
City of Placentia
(714) 993-8264
administration@placentia.org**

PLACENTIA ESTABLISHES LOCAL, CITY-RUN FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLACENTIA, CA – Following an exhaustive evaluation process, at the June 4, 2019 Council Meeting, the Placentia City Council voted to make Placentia a “full-service” city by establishing its own City of Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department to improve 911 services.

“Establishing a locally-controlled and operated City of Placentia Fire Department –with no additional cost to taxpayers – provides our residents the best innovation for life-saving services,” said Damien Arrula, City Administrator. “Our own local City Fire Department model allows the City to expand the excellent local services residents rely upon with direct accountability to our taxpayers and residents.”

“Nearly 80% of 911 emergency calls are for medical emergencies. A local Placentia city-operated Fire and Life Safety Department increases capacity to dispatch ambulances quickly, saving lives, time and money for our residents,” said Mayor Rhonda Shader. “This model increases 911 collaboration and life-saving services in an integrated public safety model, by bringing all of these services into greater transparency and accountability to our Placentia citizenry.”

“The City views public safety as a whole. To that end, this local fire service model will allow for even greater collaboration with our Police Department and 911 Communications Center. It will also allow the City to re-invest in its own local Placentia Police Department and streamline the receiving and dispatching of emergency resources to the community,” said Police Chief Darin Lenyi.

“The City will be undertaking the decisive steps necessary to ensure a seamless transition,” said Mayor Pro Tem and Former Police Chief Ward Smith. “Residents should still call 911 for emergencies or (714) 993-8164 for non-emergencies. We look forward to continuing to serve and keep the community informed as we improve these essential life-saving services for our residents.”

For more information and continual updates, the community is encouraged to visit www.placentia.org/fireems.

--END--