

**4/25/17 AGENDA, PUBLIC HEARING - ANNEXATION OF THE HERMOSA BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER FROM THE HERMOSA BEACH POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT SGT. ROBERT HIGGINS SUBMITTED TO CITY COUNCIL ON 4/25/17 AT 11:28 AM**

**From:** SGT. Robert Higgins  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Fire Services Matter

Greetings Honorable Councilmembers,

I write you as the newly elected HBPOA president. As you know, we have been busy with contract negotiations, so forgive me for this late contact.

My understanding is that the matter of contracting fire services to the County of Los Angeles may/will be coming to a vote tonight. To complicate matters further, our understanding is the Manhattan Beach Fire Department waded into the mix.

The decision to “go County” or “keep the HBFD” is complicated, and will likely dominate your legacy if the wrong decision is made. We believe that the wrong decision has the potential to “bite us in the rear” a few short years from now.

Trying to keep it simple for purposes of this letter, we have identified two major points to this decision:

- 1) Financial: while it may seem like a short term fix to “go County”, the long term ramifications will have a long term effect on the bottom line for our city. We hope that during the study/research portion of this matter, other agencies that have “gone County” were contacted. It paints a bleak future for contracting with the County. The increase in cost by County Fire is substantial. That negatively effects the fiscal future of our city, the HBPOA, and ultimately the citizens we all serve.
- 2) Quality of service: we become a customer of the County. Just like with most business deals, they start off great with high quality of service. But as time goes by, prices go up substantially, and service goes down. Make no mistake: the city will *not* maintain the quality of service it currently enjoys. That’s why trash companies get periodically replaced by cities because prices go up, and service goes down. Unfortunately, once you “go County” you cannot restart your local Fire Department. Again, this negatively effects the fiscal future of our city, the HBPOA, and ultimately the citizens we all serve.

The HBPOA has not/will not take a public position on the matter of contracting with the County. *However, the HBPOA does believe it is not the right decision to contract with the County because it will negatively affect our city, the HBPOA, and the citizens we all serve.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Higgins  
HBPOA President

Sergeant Robert Higgins  
Hermosa Beach Police Department  
540 Pier Avenue  
Hermosa Beach CA 90254  
Traffic Division/Public Information Officer

[rhiggins@hermosapolice.org](mailto:rhiggins@hermosapolice.org)

M (310) 318-0360

D (310) 318-0308

C (310) 505-7563

