



Agenda Item #5.2.

Council Agenda Report

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF RIO VISTA FIRE STATION AS A SAFE SURRENDER SITE

MEETING

DATE: June 2, 2015

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt **Resolution No. 2015-048**, "Requesting Solano County Board of Supervisors to designate the City of Rio Vista Fire Station as a Safe Surrender Site" in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 1255.7(a)(1)(A) authorizing the Board of Supervisors to designate additional safe surrendered sites in their County.

BACKGROUND

California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law allows parents or other persons with lawful custody to surrender an infant 72-hours old or younger to a designated Safe Surrender site without facing prosecution for child abandonment. Under provisions of the Act, which became effective on January 1, 2001, all public and private emergency rooms are designated as Safe Surrender sites. Health and Safety Code Section 1255.7(a) (1) (A) authorizes the Board of Supervisors to designate additional safe surrendered sites in their County. Solano County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 2010-76 (See Attachment #1) invites interested public agencies to recommend locations to be designated Safe Surrender sites.

The City had already designated the Police Station as a Safe Surrender Site but with the challenges of shift and administrative staffing, it is the opinion of staff that the Fire Station would be a more appropriate location.

The Solano County Fire Chiefs Association has expressed a strong interest in designating selected fire stations within each Solano County city and/or fire district as Safe Surrender sites. Additional safe surrender sites will provide more options for parents or legal custodian facing the decision of surrendering their child. To date, all cities within Solano County with the exception of Rio Vista and Vallejo, has had their Fire Station(s) recommended and approved as Safe Surrender Sites (See Attachment #2 – Solano County BOS Resolution No. 2010-235).

The Resolution, if approved, will allow staff to forward our resolution and request to the County Department of Health and Social Services (Dept. of H&SS) for consideration.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Due to the relative isolated location of the Police Station, as well as recent staffing challenges at the Police Department, and since the Fire Station is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, staff recommends the Council approve the resolution so that the Board of Supervisors can determine the appropriateness of our resolution. In turn the Fire Department will commit to working with Child Welfare Services as the lead agency for the county, provide the necessary resources, and abide by all State regulation and protocols related to the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. Upon receipt and review of the formal request, the Solano County Dept. of H&SS will return to the Board and request designation of our Fire Station and removal of the Police Station.

Once approved, the resolution will be delivered to the Solano County Emergency Medical Services Department for processing and inclusion in a future County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no costs involved with the program. In the event of a Surrender incident, some Department personnel will be out of service awaiting the arrival of County specialists to take custody of the infant. There will also be required training for Department Personnel that will be absorbed into the regular training program.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not accept at this time and provide staff with further direction.

SUBMITTED BY

Alan Hartford, Fire Chief – with cooperation of Greg Bowman, Police Chief

Attachments: Resolution

Attachment 1 – Solano County BOS Resolution No. 2010-76

Attachment 2 – Solano County BOS Resolution No. 2010-235

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 – 048

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA
REQUESTING SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO DESIGNATE THE CITY
OF RIO VISTA FIRE STATION AS A SAFE SURRENDER SITE**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2001, SB 1368 (Statutes, 2000) took effect, enacting a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children, also known as California's "Safely Surrendered Baby law"; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Safely Surrendered Baby law, Penal Code 271.5 allows an individual to confidentially surrender an unharmed newborn three days old or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site without fear of criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has legislated all public and private emergency rooms a safe haven sites and designated the Board of Supervisors of a county to designate other safe surrender sites within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, July 6, 2010, the County of Solano passed Resolution No. 2010-76, requesting Solano County Cities or other public agencies to submit a resolution seeking designation of specific public facilities as Safe Surrender sites; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Rio Vista, its residents and others to designate the Rio Vista Fire Station as an additional Safe Surrender site; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA as follows:

1. That Council agrees to designate the Rio Vista Fire Station as a Safe Surrender site replacing the Rio Vista Police Department; and
2. That Council requests the Solano County Board of Supervisors to remove the City of Rio Vista Police Station and designate the City of Rio Vista Fire Station as a suitable, additional Safe Surrender site for the surrender of newborns 72 hours or younger, pursuant to Penal Code Section 271.5.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of **June 2015** by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Anna Olea-Moger, CMC, City Clerk