

**Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Sandy Springs was held October 3, 2006 at 5:30 PM, Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Galambos called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Roll Call**

City Clerk Marchiafava called the roll.

**Councilmembers present:** Councilmember Dianne Fries, Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery, Councilmember Dave Greenspan, Councilmember Ashley Jenkins, Councilmember DeJulio and Councilmember Rusty Paul.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Paul moved to approve the meeting agenda. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. There was no Council discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Update on the City of Sandy Springs Fire Department and presentation on the proposed Emergency Medical Services Plan.**

**Fire Chief McElfish** provided an update on the hiring process for the Fire Department. He stated that the fire trucks will be delivered in late November and early December. He also reviewed some of the legal issues being addressed.

**Assistant City Attorney Cecil McLendon** stated that the issues have been broken into four areas. The first area is legal issues to get the fire department implemented and the appropriate authority in place to conduct fire service. The second area is the Georgia Mutual Aid Group which allows for cooperation with local fire departments. The third area is the provision of Emergency Medical Services. The fourth area is the update on the status of the acquisition of real property. He reviewed these areas.

**Fire Chief McElfish** explained the upcoming Station 39 lease agreement and automatic aid agreement with the City of Atlanta.

Councilmember Jenkins announced that Simmons, who is headquartered here in Sandy Springs, has donated 30 mattresses. She has also been in contact with International Bedding, who may be able to get the City some bed frames.

**City Manager McDonough** introduced Drs. Greenwald and Ossmann who gave the following presentation:

**EMS System Design**

**Who we are?**

- **Emory University**
  - Department of Emergency Medicine
  - Section of Pre-Hospital and Disaster Medicine
    - 8 Physicians
    - Board Certified EM physicians - clinically 'ER' docs
    - Fellowship trained in EMS (EMS backgrounds)
    - Academic Faculty
    - Internationally recognized/published
    - Sit on national advisory committees
- **Only EMS physician group in Atlanta**

● **Provide Medical Direction**

- Rural Metro
- Grady EMS
- Emory Flight
- College Park FD
- Emory First Responder Unit
- Fulton County Communications

**Medical Direction**

- Create Evidence Based Medical Protocols
- Oversight of system
  - QA/QI                      - Field Response
  - Training                    - PAD Program
- Work with KEY STAKEHOLDERS
  - Fire Chief, City Manager, City Council, Local Hospitals, Citizens, Medical Advisory Board, Fulton 911

**Terms**

- First Response: unit dispatched to arrive at scene prior to transporting ambulance
  - PD/FD
  - Most critical component for cardiac arrest victims
- BLS: Trained responders skilled at EMT-I level
- ALS: Paramedics

**State of Affairs - NATIONAL 2006**

- MEDICAL LITERATURE
  - Studies show:
    - MORE PARAMEDICS = WORSE OUTCOMES
    - MANY ALS SKILLS - HARMFUL TO PATIENTS
    - SYSTEMS WITHOUT ACTIVE PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT = WORSE OUTCOMES

**State of Affairs - 10/2006**

- Cardiac Arrest - Survival Data - Metro Atlanta
  - Less than 5 %
  - Bottom tier of country
- Markers for overall system function
  - Dispatch, scene parameters, outcomes, QA/QI
- System shortcomings
  - Dispatch Delays
  - Medical Oversight Issues
  - ALS overemphasis
- Hospital Diversion Statistics
- State Trauma System
- "Timely Intervention for Myocardial Infarctions" - AHA, Emory funded study
- "Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival" - CDC, Emory
- <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/542698>
- <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/ems-day1-cover.htm>
- 1.Cummins RO, Ornato JP, Theis WH, et al. Improving survival from sudden cardiac arrest: the "chain of survival" concept. A statement for health professionals from the Advanced Cardiac Life Support Subcommittee and the Emergency Cardiac Care Committee, American Heart Association. Circulation. 1991;83:1832-1847. Abstract2.Rea TD, Eisenberg MS, Sinibaldi G, White RD. Incidence of EMS-treated out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the United States. Resuscitation. 2004;63:17-24. Abstract3.Eisenberg MS, Horwood BT, Cummins RO, Reynolds-Haertle R, Hearne TR. Cardiac arrest and resuscitation: a tale of 29 cities. Ann Emerg Med. 1990;19:115-122.4.Davis R. Many lives are lost across the USA because emergency services fail. USA Today.

August 2003. Available at: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/ems-day1-cover.htm> Accessed August 14, 2006.5.Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System. Future of emergency care series. Hospital-Based Emergency Care: At the Breaking Point. Washington, DC: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies; 2006:76.6.CARES Program Report. Submitted to the American Association of Medical Colleges, Washington, DC. June 7, 2006.

### **Design, Design, Design**

- 2006 Institute of Medicine report
  - EMS System "Fragmentation" is bad
  - Need coordinative approach to care
  - Need to follow medical evidence

EMS = Complex Medical Care

### **Sandy Springs - 2007**

- Out the door - BLS response
  - PSAP - Medical Dispatch Focus
    - Define standards with Fulton County Dispatch
  - 100% CPR FD/PD
  - AED's all PD/FD vehicles
  - Rapid Response focus
  - Medical Direction/protocols
  - Increased ALS ambulances???

### **One Year Plan**

- Identify cadre of high-performers "Best of the BEST"
- EMS Officer - Training, QA/QI
- Consider SSFD Paramedic Initiative
- QRV's (Quick Response Vehicles)
- If ALS, decrease extra ambulances to BLS
- Take ownership of care in your community!
- PAD Program (Public Access to Defibrillation)

### **Five Year Plan**

- Tiered Response Paramedics vs. 20 - 30% Paramedics - one/truck
- Option to provide ALS service in your city
  - In the back of someone else's ambulance
  - Your medics, your oversight, your city!
  - Some models bill ambulance service for ALS
  - Citizens really appreciate FD

### **North Fulton Communities**

- **Roswell**
  - PSAP
  - BLS/ALS First Response
  - Limited physician involvement
  - ALS Transport - Rural Metro
  
- **Alpharetta**
  - PSAP
  - ALS First Response
  - Limited physician involvement
  - ALS Transport - Rural Metro

### **Pitfalls**

- Avoid making everyone a paramedic
  - Expensive
  - Creates massive skill dilution
  - No model in this community works
  - Directly opposes medical literature
- Reward people with EMS interest
  - 80% of calls
- Avoid going it alone without Medical Direction
  - Required by law
  - Politically smart
  - Reduces legal exposure
  - Increases granting opportunities
  - Defines a progressive system

### **Other options....**

All ALS

All BLS

BLS with ALS fly-cars

### **Lessons 1990's - CPR**

- Really Really good
- Better if "Hard, Fast"
- Paramedics tendency to become distracted by meds/airway
- EMT skill
- "Bystander" skill

### **Lessons from 1990's - AEDs**

- Create a "system" to provide rapid-defibrillation for victims of sudden death
- EMT skill
- "Bystander skill"
- Paramedics on-scene it becomes second to "airway"

### **Lessons from 1990's**

- A good EMT is safer, less expensive, and more available than a paramedic functioning in an under-funded, under-resourced system.
  - Paramedics do better in tiered system
- **Why?**
  - Skill retention/dilution
  - EMTs focus on basic skills which are EVIDENCE BASED
  - Hard to train Paramedics
  - More is not always better

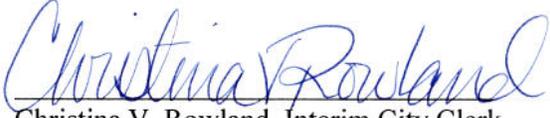
Mayor Galambos stated that she felt this was a great approach.

### **Adjourn**

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Fries moved to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Councilmember Paul seconded the motion.

After no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Date approved: November 8, 2006

  
Christina V. Rowland, Interim City Clerk

  
Eva Galambos, Mayor