

Untitled

Commission Meeting

Name

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Email4cgarrett@gmail.com**Comments:**

Sandoval County Commissioners: re: Mtg. 5/21/20 Agenda Item 9 Fire Department
As a resident of San Pedro Creek Estates, I wish to address the issue of the proposal to eliminate the La Madera Voluntary Fire Department as a functioning entity. Our community is comprised primarily of an aged group of individuals and any improvement in service particularly to save lives or property is welcomed. In fact, it should be the objective and purpose of anyone involved administratively or otherwise to further this goal and would certainly be welcomed in any community . In this regard, does this proposal accomplish this important undertaking? I will address emergency medical response time currently versus what may surely occur with this proposal with but one example of my experience with our current level of service.
Late one night, a 93 year old resident was experiencing inability to breathe and significant amount of confusion and extreme anxiety. 911 was called and I arrived at the residence in less than 5 minutes. Pulling into the drive behind me was a first responder from our volunteer fire department. As we entered the home, the resident was immediately attended to and within a couple of minutes, the entire living room was filled with other members of the volunteer fire department to assist. Probably 30 minutes after the initial call, Albuquerque Ambulance also arrived and she was later transported to the hospital.
Although this individual had heart and other conditions, this scenario turned out well and did recover. The very opposite could well have occurred without the immediate and able assistance that was received. The emergency medical response time from Bernalillo County stations to just the entrance to our subdivision cannot possibly match that of which was observed; much less the potential of another four plus miles drive into the subdivision to get to many residences. Life or death can easily be a matter of minutes and a degradation in service will ultimately result in the latter. If life saving is a major goal of our county fire administrators, does this proposed change further this objective? It seems reasonably obvious that these changes would not be a positive way forward but, sadly, a significant step backward.
Thanks for your time and I urge you to place careful consideration and reasoned judgment on the potential dire implications of this proposal.