

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2021**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAUMONT IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL MEASURE H BENEFITTING SAN GORGONIO HOSPITAL**

**WHEREAS** a cornerstone of a community's quality of life is its local access to quality hospital services, including emergency room (ER) rapid-response, lifesaving medical care with qualified, well-trained physicians and nurses, and advanced medical technology and treatments, and San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital provides these critically important emergency medical services to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, particularly in a life-threatening medical emergency when every second counts, access to local emergency medical care is essential to saving lives; and

**WHEREAS**, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital operates the only ER in the Pass Area (the next closest ER is 30 - 45 minutes away depending on traffic); and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate staffing of qualified physicians and nurses and insufficient advanced medical technology and treatments for emergency medical services may pose a risk to the health, safety, and general welfare of local residents and members of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, to keep our community's only ER open and fully operational 24/7, local voters overwhelmingly approved a modest parcel tax in 2002 and once again exceeding super-majority voter support reauthorized that funding in 2012, understanding then that every second counts in an emergency and quick access to medical help when you need it most, saves lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the current local funding approved by voters twice before by overwhelming majorities expires on July 1, 2022, and Measure H is now on the ballot to reauthorize local funding that supports these critically important emergency medical services at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital and keeps our local ER open and fully operational 24/7; and

**WHEREAS**, without Measure H, our healthcare future will suffer, with fewer doctors and nurses, longer patient wait times, and overcrowded ERs further away; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure H will not raise local tax rates; at its current rate of \$60.52 per parcel per year, generating \$2,600,000 annually to support locally controlled emergency medical services at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital, the cost of Measure H is modest - about \$5/month; and Measure H is capped at the current tax rate, so Measure H funding will stay flat going forward – it cannot be increased without a new vote of the people and super-majority voter approval (66.7% voter support); and

**WHEREAS**, mandatory taxpayer protections, including public disclosure of spending, all funds locally controlled, and no tax rate increase; these protections continue with Measure H until ended by voters; and all funds stay local for San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital ER services only; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 14, 2021, the locally elected Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District held a public hearing after due notice to consider calling

a special election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District a ballot measure proposing the continuance of its expiring Emergency Healthcare Services Tax without increasing the existing tax rate, commencing July 1, 2022, and continuing until ended by voters, to provide for the continued operation and maintenance by the District of an Emergency Department and its associated services on a twenty-four hour basis for locally controlled emergency medical services at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District also on September 14, 2021, did in fact take action to call for an all-mail ballot election of the voters on December 14, 2021, a ballot measure now taking place by mail ballot to authorize continuing this critically important local funding; with ballots for Measure H expected to be mailed to voters on or about the week of November 15, 2021; and all eligible voters in the jurisdiction of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District who are registered to vote by November 29, 2021, including all registered voters within the City of Beaumont will be eligible to vote on Measure H; and

**WHEREAS**, for 70 years, local victims of accidents, heart attacks, strokes and other medical emergencies have relied on San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital for lifesaving emergency medical care; no one knows when a life-threatening medical emergency or local disaster will strike, and Measure H ensures that emergency medical care will be accessible close to home, in our community when we need it most.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council hereby resolves that the City of Beaumont City Council formally endorses Measure H, benefitting San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital Emergency Room services.

**MOVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Beaumont at a regularly-scheduled meeting of the City Council held on November 2, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

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Mayor, Mike Lara

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Steven Mehlman

