



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Safety Communications



Date: March 14, 2017
Board Meeting Date: April 11, 2017
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Daniel T. Belville, Director, Public Safety Communications

Subject: Resolution Certifying the Critical Need for Retiree Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the extra-help hiring of the Public Safety Communication's retiring Supervising Dispatcher, Patricia Jewett, pursuant to Government Code §7522.56(f)(1), and finding that the nature of employment and appointment is necessary to fill a critically-needed position during the 180-day post-retirement separation period.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2012, the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) was signed into law as Assembly Bill 340. The PEPRA legislation includes provisions in Government Code §7522.56 requiring a 180 day separation ("sit-out") following the date of retirement for non-safety retirees who are re-employed by a public agency within the same retirement system as an employee, or through a contract unless the employer certifies that appointment is necessary to fill a critically-needed position before the 180 day has passed.

For the exception to the 180 day separation period to apply, state law requires that your Board, as the County's governing body, approve by resolution the appointment in a public meeting and not on the consent calendar.

DISCUSSION:

Before her recent retirement on March 31st, 2017, Patricia Jewett was employed as a Supervising Communications Dispatcher in the Office of Public Safety Communications, where she has served the County of San Mateo for 33 years. She initiated the Quality Assurance Unit for Public Safety Communications (PSC) early in her career and if re-hired, would perform the critical service of updating the Quality Assurance standards based on industry-wide best practices as PSC prepares for the move to the soon-to-be-constructed Regional Operations Center.

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In addition to her work of improving and updating quality standards and performance measures, Ms. Jewett is certified in all areas of emergency dispatch. She will be able to provide needed relief and fill critical shortages in staffing in the 911 Center while ongoing training of new Dispatchers continues.

Ms. Jewett will be paid \$45.65 per hour as extra help/relief (Per Diem) for her assistance in updating the Quality Assurance and Performance Standards. The rate is equivalent to the hourly rate of pay for a Communications Dispatcher II-Relief position. Pursuant to Government Code §7522.56, her hours will be limited to no more than 960 hours per fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in net county cost associated with the recommended action beyond PSC budgeted expenses for this staffing. Appropriations to cover extra help costs are included in the PSC budget.