



"Policing with a Purpose"

# Smyrna Police Department

Chief of Police  
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To: Chief David Lee

From: Major Frank Durrance

Date: January 29, 2018

Subject: Inmate Medical

**Purpose:** The purpose of this proposal is to provide recommendations for alternative medical attention for inmates housed in the Smyrna Jail. The intent of the proposal is to provide adequate medical services and train our officers the best practices of triaging inmates. This will alleviate unnecessary transport to local emergency medical centers. Thorough triage will alleviate undue medical visits and free officers from having to transport and guard inmates at medical facilities. The overriding goal is to manage and utilize in house medical assistance to care for inmate medical needs saving all agencies time and money from undue transports to local emergency medical centers.

**Issue:** Current medical needs by inmates are referred to local medical emergency rooms, causing undue medical cost to those departments that are served by our facility. During the last six months Sandy Springs has paid at least \$61,000 in medical fees on inmates housed in our facility. This cost does not include hourly rates of our officers transporting and guarding offenders, while awaiting other agencies arrival to take custody. Detention Officers are not currently properly trained to deal with inmate medical issues and do not have the ability to complete a thorough triage.

As public safety leaders, we have been taught to identify issues and deploy resources where they are needed. Medical needs of those under our direct care is an area of high liability. Training our employees to give the best care available and provide professional services relieves the agency from some of this liability.

**Procedure:** To provide a medical alternative that has nurses visit our facility three times a week will help meet the needs of our agency. This service will provide a physical evaluation on those inmates that are in our custody for more than 17 days. Physical evaluation is a service provided to ensure the inmate has proper medical care and keeps the facility free from epidemic type illnesses. Identifying medical challenges will be met with the ability to train, triage and notify trained medical professionals for alternative care prior to transporting out of the facility. It is

mission critical to ensure our employees are properly trained, and have the needed resources to meet the needs of those persons housed at the facility. In an effort to maintain a healthy living and work environment, training of employees and the ability to have health care needs readily available to inmates is a necessity that must be provided 24 hours a day. To be great stewards of the taxpayers' money we should maintain tight parameters of what is needed vs. what may be wanted. It was this mindset we based our recommendations and conclusions.

Resolution: The implementation of providing medical services through a service provided by Southern Health Partners. The service will provide training to triage individuals determining their medical needs. A certified nurse will visit the facility 3 times per week for a period of four hours per visit. The nurses will also be available to the officer by phone 24 hours a day. The service fees are based on the daily population of the jail. The fee quoted of \$49,680 (\$4140.00 per month) is based on a daily population of 40 inmates per day. Over the last six months we have housed a greater number of inmate days than in years past. This is due to the addition of Sandy Springs Inmates. In the 2018 budget year inmate housing earned \$284,119. In our current budget year from July 1 through December 31, 2018. We have earned \$418,715.00 from July 1 through December 31, 2018. This influx in earnings will be able to assist funding our medical billings until the 2020 Budget Year begins.

This proposal is respectfully tendered as a draft and forwarded to the Chief of Police and Fire for review and consideration on January 29, 2018.

Respectfully submitted.