April 19, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA  90012

Dear Supervisors:

ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION AND
THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AND APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION
ADJUSTMENT FOR THE GRANT FUNDS
(ALL DISTRICTS) (4 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

1. Accept with thanks $896,420 of a $2.9 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation and the American Heart Association (AHA), Western States Affiliate. The Wallis Annenberg HEART Program involves unprecedented collaboration between the Consolidated Fire Protection District (District), the Los Angeles Fire Department, the AHA, and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). This grant will provide funds for 12-Lead EKG HEART Program implementation, and all associated training and supplies.

2. In addition, in the future (date to be determined) we are hoping to receive an additional $175,000 from the AHA, which will allow us to train all remaining fire fighter paramedics.
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3. Authorize the Fire Chief to sign any documents required by the Annenberg Foundation and the AHA that are associated with the administration and management of this grant.

4. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to sign and forward a letter expressing Board appreciation for the generous donation of $896,420 from the Annenberg Foundation and the AHA.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Annenberg Foundation provided $896,420 of a $2.9 million grant to fund the 12-Lead EKG HEART Program. The Wallis Annenberg HEART Program involves unprecedented collaboration between the District, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the AHA. The new program is likely to substantially improve survival rates, allow the County and City of Los Angeles to immediately begin the implementation of the largest advancement in emergency cardiac care in the nation, and create a model for other cities to follow.

More than seven million people, about 80 percent of all Los Angeles County residents, depend on Los Angeles County and Los Angeles Fire Department Emergency Medical Services personnel (paramedics) as first responders for emergencies. Dr. Franklin D. Pratt, Medical Director for District, and Dr. Marc Eckstein, Medical Director, for the Los Angeles Fire Department, estimate that of its approximate 1,850 daily calls, nearly 20 percent are related to cardiac chest pain alone. Paramedic units currently use three and four Lead EKGs, which have been in the field for the last 30 years. Estimated to save many lives in the County of Los Angeles each year, the 12-Lead technology will allow paramedics to determine in two minutes whether the patient has experienced an acute heart attack.

Grant funds in the amount of $533,860 will be paid directly to Zoll Medical Corporation to cover the cost of upgrades to the District’s 110 existing cardiac monitors. In addition, grant funds in the amount of $362,560 will provide for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and 12-Lead EKG training and supplies for the District’s paramedics.
Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Access to these grant funds address Goal No. 2: Workforce Excellence, Strategy 1, of the County Strategic Plan, which guides us to “Establish employee development systems that improves the quality of the workforce by linking training activities to identified individual and organizational needs.”

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This program is fully funded by the AHA grant. There are no cost sharing or matching fund requirements.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Annenberg Foundation and the AHA have provided the District with guidelines for the administration of the grant agreement. These guidelines detail the activities and expenditures that are allowable for reimbursement.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The acceptance of this grant will allow for comprehensive 12-Lead training and supplies, which will enhance the District’s fire fighter paramedic capabilities. It will also provide the District with the opportunity to acquire equipment suitable for paramedics to rapidly determine if a patient has experienced an acute heart attack.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval, please instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to return one executed original and one original copy to the District.

Attached are a letters of thanks to the Annenberg Foundation and the American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate for their generous donation. Please instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to send these letters to:
Ms. Mona Reyes          Ms. Wallis Annenberg
Foundation Relations Director     Annenberg Foundation
American Heart Association, Inc.     Center West, Suite 1605
816 South Figueroa Street          10877 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA  90017-2400        Los Angeles, CA  90024

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:cn

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer
   County Counsel
   Auditor-Controller
   Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
   Brian Center
   Randi Tahara
   Joseph Charney
   Rick Velasquez
   Sussy Nemer
April 19, 2005

Ms. Mona Reyes  
Foundation Relations Director  
American Heart Association, Inc.  
816 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA  90017-2400  

Dear Ms. Reyes:

At its meeting held on April 19, 2005, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors accepted, with gratitude, the $896,420 of a $2.9 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation and the American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate (AHA).

This grant will be used to fund the 12-Lead EKG HEART Program. The Wallis Annenberg HEART Program involves unprecedented collaboration between the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the American Heart Association, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Board members have requested that I express their appreciation to you and the Annenberg Foundation for this generous donation.

Very truly yours,

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
April 19, 2005

Ms. Wallis Annenberg, Vice President
Annenberg Foundation
Center West, Suite 1605
10877 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA  90024

Dear Ms. Annenberg:

At its meeting held on April 19, 2005, the Los Angles County Board of Supervisors accepted, with gratitude, the $896,420 of a $2.9 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation and the American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate (AHA).

This grant will be used to fund the 12-Lead EKG HEART Program. The Wallis Annenberg HEART Program involves unprecedented collaboration between the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the American Heart Association, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Board members have requested that I express their appreciation to you and the Annenberg Foundation for this generous donation.

Very truly yours,

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER