

**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LITTLETON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING VOTER APPROVAL OF SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT'S INCLUSION OF THE AREA WITHIN LITTLETON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DURING THE MAY 8, 2018 ELECTION

WHEREAS, Littleton Fire Protection District ("*Fire District*") provides fire suppression, fire protection and public education, emergency rescue and extrication, hazardous materials, ambulance and emergency medical services (collectively, "*Emergency Services*") to approximately 80,000 Colorado residents living in portions of Arapahoe, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. The Fire District was organized in 1948 as a fire protection district, which is a form of local government in Colorado. The Fire District covers 30 square miles and is comprised of two distinct, noncontiguous geographical areas both west and east of the City of Littleton;

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2018, the Board of Directors of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District ("*South Metro*") adopted a Resolution directing that during an election on May 8, 2018, South Metro shall ask the Fire District's voters if all of the area within the Fire District shall be included into South Metro's jurisdiction ("*Inclusion Election*");

WHEREAS, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III), expressly authorizes the Fire District's Board of Directors ("*Fire District Board*") to adopt a Resolution advocating voter approval of South Metro's request to include all of the area within the Fire District into South Metro's jurisdiction during the Inclusion Election; and,

WHEREAS, the Fire District Board has determined it is important to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens to whom it provides essential, life-saving Emergency Services that the Board adopt this Resolution urging all eligible voters to approve South Metro's request to include all of the area within the Fire District into South Metro's jurisdiction during the Inclusion Election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LITTLETON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, COLORADO:

1. For many years, the Fire District has provided Emergency Services to the citizens and property within its jurisdiction through Littleton Fire Rescue, which is operated by the City of Littleton ("*City*") in partnership with the Fire District and Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District ("*Highlands Ranch*").

2. While the Fire District Board has valued its partnership with the City and Highlands Ranch, in recent years the Fire District Board has become increasingly concerned with the partnership's ability to provide long-term, sustainable high quality and cost effective Emergency Services to the Fire District's citizens and their property.

3. In late 2016, discussions began regarding the possible unification of the Emergency Services being provided by Cunningham Fire Protection District (“*Cunningham*”), South Metro, the Fire District, Highlands Ranch and the City. On May 2, 2017, the Fire Chiefs of South Metro, Littleton Fire Rescue, and Cunningham issued a Unification Proposal, which provided their analysis and recommendations for creating one unified fire protection district to serve all of the citizens and properties currently within South Metro, the Fire District, the City, Highlands Ranch and Cunningham.

4. After extensive discussion and analysis of unification and the Unification Proposal, in November 2017, South Metro and the Fire District entered into the Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of a Unified Fire Protection District, and on December 13, 2017, South Metro and the Fire District entered into a Pre-Unification and Fire Authority Agreement, which sets forth detailed provisions for the unification of the two fire protection districts.

5. **The first critical step of unification is for the Fire District’s voters to approve South Metro’s inclusion of all of the area within the Fire District’s jurisdiction during the Inclusion Election.**

6. The Fire District Board firmly believes that unification is in the best interest of its citizens and their property because:

- South Metro will be able to provide sustainable, high quality Emergency Services to the area currently within the Fire District. South Metro currently provides Emergency Services to more than 200,000 residents across 179 square miles in Douglas and Arapahoe counties. If unification occurs, South Metro would become the second largest Emergency Services provider in Colorado and the communities it serves would benefit from reliable staffing and greater capabilities in terms of training and fire suppression equipment;
- The Fire District and South Metro share large borders. Unification of Emergency Services will allow for improved response times by removing service area boundaries and responding with the closest emergency vehicles. Overall service, capacity to respond to large-scale or multiple emergencies, and firefighter health and safety also are benefits that are expected to be realized through unification.
- South Metro has achieved a rate of “1” from the Insurance Services Office (“ISO”), which is ISO’s highest rating. To date, South Metro is only one of four fire departments within Colorado to achieve this distinguished rating;
- South Metro is an “Internationally Accredited Agency” through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a distinction given to fire and emergency medical service providers that meet rigorous standards for service and management best practices. South Metro is one of only 14 accredited fire agencies in Colorado, and one of only 239 agencies worldwide.

- Once the Fire District's area is included into South Metro, the entire area within South Metro would be divided into "director districts", which will ensure that the area that was previously within the Fire District will have appropriate representation on the South Metro Board of Directors.


- The Fire District's costs of providing Emergency Services through the current partnership with the City and Highlands Ranch are steadily increasing. The Fire District Board has projected that in the upcoming years it would need to ask its voters to increase its property tax to at least 10 mills, which would result in higher property taxes than the 9.25 mills currently imposed by South Metro. This could result in property owners paying more in taxes for a lower level of service than what is expected through unification. If all of the Fire District's service area is included into South Metro, it will be subject to South Metro's property tax of 9.25 mills and the appropriate steps will be taken to legally dissolve (terminate) the Fire District as a local government.

7. For all of the foregoing reasons, the Board urges voters to approve inclusion of all the Fire District's area into South Metro during the May 8, 2018 inclusion election.

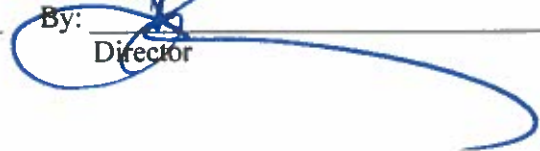
ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of January, 2018.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LITTLETON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: 
Director

By: 
Director

By: 
Director

By: 
Director

By: 
Director