TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: W. Gary Gillis, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION: RECOGNIZING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY’S “SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY CAMPAIGN” AND DESIGNATING FIRE STATIONS AS NEW SAFE HAVEN SITES

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution recognizing San Joaquin County’s “Safely Surrendered Baby Campaign” and designate fire stations as New Safe Haven Sites.

DISCUSSION

Background

On January 1, 2001, California enacted a law that provides for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children known as California’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law. This law allows an individual to surrender an unharmed newborn three days or younger at any hospital emergency room or other designated safe haven site confidentially without fear of prosecution. On October 2, 2002, the State of California unveiled a campaign entitled “No Shame, No Blame, No Names” aimed at informing the public of the State’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law.

On October 16, 2003, Stockton Firefighter Ralph Lagana found an abandoned newborn outside of Fire Station Number 6. Firefighter Lagana quickly assessed the infant and requested an ambulance for transport to San Joaquin County General Hospital. This is the first known incident of a newborn being surrendered at a fire station San Joaquin County.

Present Situation

The Board of Supervisors of San Joaquin County is initiating a countywide “No Shame, No Blame, No Names campaign to inform residents of San Joaquin County of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. In addition, the County of San Joaquin is recognizing all fire station locations as “Safe Havens” for the surrender of newborns 72 hours or younger.

Adoption of this resolution will designate City of Stockton fire stations as Safe Haven sites. Further, it will require the posting of blue and white “Safe Haven”

AGENDA ITEM 6.09
RESOLUTION: RECOGNIZING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY'S "SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY CAMPAIGN" AND DESIGNATING FIRE STATIONS AS NEW SAFE HAVEN SITES

emblem placards, as well as the installation of an emergency telephone box outside each fire station.

Findings

On August 31, 2000, SB 1368 introduced the safely surrendered process. On July 31, 2003, SB 139 was passed revising SB1368 allowing the surrender of a newborn to a safe surrender site and to any personnel at that site.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sufficient funds are available in Fire Department Account No. 010-2620-530-30-50 for the purchase of Universal "Safely Surrendered Baby Site" signs and the emergency telephone box to be installed outside of each fire station. Total cost is estimated to be approximately $5,000.

In the event of a safely surrendered infant, Stockton Fire Department ambulances and private transport providers will waive ambulance transportation fees. In addition, the Stockton Fire Department will waive the $24.00 dispatch fee for the private providers.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. GARY GILLIS
FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

MARK LEWIS, ESQ
CITY MANAGER