



Since 1954

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION of CLACKAMAS COUNTY LOCAL 1159 • *International Association of Fire Fighters*

Mark Corless
President

Mark Oelschlager
Vice President

Chris James
Treasurer

Nate Hon
Secretary

Jim Bernard – Selling Out on Public Safety

Soon after Clackamas County Commissioner Jim Bernard lost his bid for re-election in November he began pushing to reward American Medical Response (AMR), a for-profit company, with an Evergreen Contract. This contract would grant AMR a lifetime agreement to provide ambulance services to Clackamas County without an open competitive process. Bernard's push also eliminates the current process Clackamas County utilizes to award future contracts opting for one that has underdeveloped performance standards and lacks checks and balances.

"Transparency is a key to good government," said Mark Corless, President of the Professional Firefighters of Clackamas County. "To change or subvert the long-standing process that was put in place to ensure our residents would receive quality services at a competitive rate is not just inappropriate, it's poor governance. It's obvious that this is unnecessary – commissioners need to reject this proposal."

The Clackamas County EMS Council, made up of Stakeholders from throughout Clackamas County, including fire and emergency medical services, was tasked by the Board of County Commissioners to develop standards for the ambulance service contract Request for Proposal process starting in 2022. The EMS Council is currently working on a wide array of enhancements that will improve Emergency Medical Services within Clackamas County for generations to come. Awarding an Evergreen Contract at this point will hinder efforts to make improvements and expand the system as our population grows.

"Clackamas County's current contract with AMR does not expire for four years – why is Commissioner Bernard rushing to change the process now after he lost his election and is set to leave office?" Corless asked. "These lifetime Evergreen contracts take away the ability of elected County Commissioners to work with public service agencies and other providers and hampers the county's ability to adapt as our community grows," Corless continued.

Commissioner Bernard proposal ignores the existing process. This issue is on the agenda for today's special policy session at 2pm. In another departure from the norm, Bernard is asking his fellow Commissioners rush this vote and ratify the AMR Contract in just two weeks at a regular County Commissioner Meeting Thursday, December 17th.

###

Address
P.O. Box 230104
Tigard, Oregon 97281

Email
info@local1159.com

Phone
(971) 266-0198

Web
www.local1159.com



Follow us
@iaff1159