TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT: FIRE
DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2004
CMR: 445:04

SUBJECT: DESIGNATING FIRE STATIONS AS “SAFE CHILD SURRENDER” SITES

This is an informational report and no Council action is required.

BACKGROUND
In 2001, the State of California enacted Health and Safety Code section 1255.7 and Penal Code section 271.5, the Newborn Abandonment Law, also referred to as the “Safely Surrendered Baby” law. The law provides that no parent or other person having lawful custody of a newborn 72 hours old or younger may be prosecuted for child abandonment if he or she voluntarily surrenders physical custody of a child to an employee on duty at a public or private hospital emergency room or any other safe surrender site.

On August 3, 2004, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution designating Santa Clara County fire stations as “Safe Surrender” sites in accordance with the Safely Surrendered Baby law. The Board designated District fire stations as safe surrender sites to increase awareness of the law and expand the number of safe surrender sites within the County.

DISCUSSION
In order to improve access to places where parents may safely surrender their infants, City owned fire stations will be designated safe surrender sites. Firefighters will be trained to take physical custody of a surrendered newborn and otherwise comply with the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 1255.7.

Each fire station will be identified as a safe surrender site by posting the statewide logo that has been adopted by the State Department of Social Services.

RESOURCE IMPACT
There is no direct fiscal impact to the City. Policy development and training for this program is minimal and will be handled through the existing training schedule.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS
This procedure is consistent with existing City policies.

Prepared by:  JUDY JEWELL, Acting Fire Chief

City Manager Approval: ______________________________
EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager