




COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Coroner's Office

DATE: April 25, 2003

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 10, 2003

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors 
FROM: Robert J. Foucrault, Coroner
SUBJECT: **An ordinance amending San Mateo County Ordinance No. 03587 and establishing revised fees for services provided by the San Mateo County Coroner's Office**

Recommendation

Adopt the proposed amendment to County Ordinance 03587, as proposed herein and declare that the fees specified in the proposed amendment supersede all other fees charged by the Coroner for similar services.

Background

Tight budget times and a desire to ensure and maintain the highest level of service has led to the proposed restructure of the existing fees charged as outlined in County Ordinance 03587 to more closely reflect and recover actual costs. The Coroner's Office fee structure has remained unchanged since August 9, 1994. The Coroner's Office has studied and surveyed the fees charged for similar services in the surrounding counties.

Discussion

Upon authorization of the Board of Supervisors and pursuant to Government Code Sections 27440 & 27441, the Coroner may establish a reasonable fee or a maximum charge for certain services and conditions.

The fees charged by the Coroner's Office were last reviewed and adjusted on August 9, 1994. Due to current budgetary constraints and a desire to continue to provide a high level of service, the fees have been revisited. The Coroner's Office is proposing the attached changes to the fee structure as the first step in bringing fees up to current actual cost. Due to the length of time since the last revision was made it was felt that it would not be prudent to attempt to increase fees to the full actual cost all at one time.

Visioning Alignment

The proposed changes to the fee structure of the Coroner's Office keeps the commitment to Ensure Basic Health and Safety for All, goal number 7: Maintain and enhance the public safety of all residents and visitors, by ensuring that all requests of the Coroner's office requiring investigative action will be met in a timely and effective manner through appropriate scheduling and management. In addition, the proposed changes to the fee structure keeps the commitment to Responsive, Effective and Collaborative Government, goal number 20: Government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact rather than temporary relief or immediate gain, by reviewing future departmental needs through thoughtful analysis in light of anticipated budget short falls.

Fiscal Impact

The projected increase in revenue is approximately \$60,000 and has been included in the recommended FY 2003-04 budget.