



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Coroner's Office

DATE: May 20, 2004

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2004

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Robert J. Foucrault, Coroner 
SUBJECT: **Amendment to County Ordinance 03587, Coroner Fees**

Recommendation

Adopt an amendment to Ordinance 03587 revising fees for services provided by the Coroner's Office

Background

The Coroner's Office fee structure was updated July 1, 2003. Prior to this adjustment the fees had remained unchanged since August 1994. Due to the nine-year lapse of time between adjustments, the fees were not fully adjusted in 2003 to reflect actual cost.

Discussion

The Coroner's Office has studied and surveyed the fees charged for similar services in the surrounding counties, and San Mateo County remains lower. Due to current budgetary constraints and a desire to continue to provide a high level of service, the Coroner's fees have been revisited. The Coroner's Office is proposing the attached changes to the fee structure as the second step in bringing fees up to current actual cost. The proposed rates better reflect actual cost of doing business and remain competitive.

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

A projected increase of \$20,000 in revenue will help to reduce the Coroner's Office Net County Cost.

RECOMMENDED
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Paul J. Stannell
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ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER