

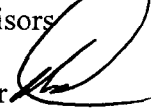
**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

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 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 a 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 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 to reflect actual cost. 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 27472 & 54985, 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 July 1, 2003. Prior to this adjustment the fees had remained unchanged since 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 second step in bringing fees up to current actual cost.

### **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.