



**For Immediate Release:**

July 8, 2020

**City Signs Lease Agreement with Falck Alameda County to Provide Emergency Services and Community Programs at Former Site of Fire Station 30**

On July 3, 2020, the City of Union City and Falck Alameda County entered into a three-year lease agreement for a site located at 35000 Eastin Court. Falck Alameda County is Alameda County's emergency medical response and primary 911 transport service provider. The city-owned site being leased to Falck Alameda County is formerly the site of Fire Station 30 operated by the Alameda County Fire Department.

Falck Alameda County will use the station for ambulance operations, as well as a community center that emphasizes safety, health, education, and wellness for Union City residents. Community program opportunities will include education about stroke awareness; CPR and first aid training; Safe Kids classes; blood pressure screenings; and the Senior Injury Prevention Program. Falck will also use this location to house the new mental health Community Assessment and Transport Teams (CATT), which serves as a behavioral health crisis response team.

Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, expresses:

"A high majority of calls for service in Union City are for emergency medical response, so we are excited to take the first steps towards a new service delivery model that meets community needs. Allowing Falck to use the former site of Fire Station 30 as a base of service benefits the community by having more ambulances moving through Union City and southern Alameda County; providing community education programming for the area; and accommodating the mental health CATT teams, which will also serve Union City."

Fire Station 30 closed on January 15, 2020 at the direction of City Council and in line with the City's Strategic Plan to "foster fiscal health through disciplined long-term planning, cost control, heightened efficiency, increased revenue, and cost recovery." The station was underutilized with fewer than two service calls per day, but at a cost of about \$3 million per year. Upon closing the underutilized fire station, the City Council made a commitment to exploring opportunities for a more cost-efficient, community-based use of the site.

"First responders make excellent neighbors," says Carolina Snypes, Director and Chief of Falck Alameda County. "Being able to base our paramedics and other responders out of an unused fire station is a win for Falck and a win for Union City. We're also looking forward to contributing to the health and safety of all area residents via programs at the community center."

Falck will begin a phased implementation of its programs and services, starting immediately by opening the site for ambulance units to use.

###