



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Highlands Ranch Metro District Board of Directors makes decision
to change fire and emergency services provider**

After months of analysis and deliberation, the board of directors of the Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District has decided that in order to improve fire and emergency services for the residents and businesses of Highlands Ranch, it would be best to include the community in South Metro Fire Rescue. The decision ends a 37-year contractual arrangement with the City of Littleton and the Littleton Fire Protection District for services provided by Littleton Fire Rescue.

“We owe it to Highlands Ranch residents to continue to provide the best available fire and emergency services. We believe inclusion in South Metro Fire Rescue will provide a higher level of service than we are currently receiving. South Metro Fire Rescue has indicated they will be able to employ the current Littleton paramedics and firefighters who are familiar with this community,” said Metro District board chairman Jim Worley.

Under a new Memorandum of Understanding with South Metro, the Metro District will have a voice, and a vote on the new joint board to be formed for fire department governance. Highlands Ranch expects improved response times, enhanced service delivery, and sound management decisions from its South Metro relationship. As part of the agreement, Highlands Ranch voters will be asked to consider inclusion in South Metro Fire Rescue in a May 2018 election.

If the ballot question in the election passes, Highlands Ranch will become part of South Metro Fire Rescue on January 1, 2019. If it does not pass, the Metro District will contract with South Metro Fire Rescue in January 2019 to ensure continued, smooth fire and emergency services.

This move is similar to the action recently taken by the Littleton Fire Protection District, in Arapahoe and Jefferson counties, changing its fire/rescue services to South Metro from Littleton.

Founded in 1981 as the local government in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, the Metro District provides a variety of municipal services to this planned community of 96,000 people. Learn more about the Metro District at www.highlandsranch.org.

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