

January 22, 2018

FACTUAL SUMMARY

Littleton Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 284, Littleton, CO 80160 • (720) 445-0731

MAY 8, 2018 ELECTION TO INCLUDE WITHIN SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY WITHIN LITTLETON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

SUMMARY. During its meeting on January 17, 2018, the Board of Directors of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District (“**South Metro**”) adopted a Resolution calling for an election on May 8, 2018 to receive approval from the eligible voters within Littleton Fire Protection District (“**Littleton FPD**”) to include within South Metro all of the property currently within Littleton FPD (“**Inclusion Election**”). The Inclusion Election is the first step in the proposed unification of South Metro and Littleton FPD.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL. South Metro provides high quality fire suppression, fire protection and public education, rescue, extrication, hazardous materials, ambulance and emergency medical services (collectively, “**Emergency Services**”) to more than 200,000 residents across 179 square miles in Douglas and Arapahoe counties. If unification occurs, South Metro would become the second largest Emergency Services provider in Colorado. Littleton FPD and South Metro share large borders. Unification of Emergency Services will allow for improved response times by removing service area boundaries and responding with the closest emergency vehicles.

South Metro has achieved a rating of “1” from the Insurance Services Office (“**ISO**”), which is ISO’s highest rating. South Metro is an “Internationally Accredited Agency” through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). To date, only 14 fire agencies in Colorado, and only 239 fire agencies worldwide, have the status of an Internationally Accredited Agency. If Littleton FPD’s area is included into South Metro, the entire area within South Metro will be divided into “director districts”, so that the area that was previously within Littleton FPD will have representation on the South Metro Board of Directors.

Littleton FPD’s costs of providing Emergency Services through the current partnership with the City of Littleton and Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District are steadily increasing. The Littleton FPD Board has projected that in the upcoming years it would need to ask its voters to increase its property tax to at least 10 mills, which would result in higher property taxes than the 9.25 mills currently imposed by South Metro. This could result in property owners paying more in taxes for a lower level of service than what is expected through unification. If all of Littleton FPD’s service area is included into South Metro, it will be subject to South Metro’s property tax of 9.25 mills and the appropriate steps will be taken to legally dissolve (terminate) Littleton FPD as a local government.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PROPOSAL. Currently, Littleton FPD’s Emergency Services are funded by a 7.678 mills property tax. If inclusion is approved, Littleton FPD’s property tax would be replaced with South Metro’s 9.25 mills property tax. This change would equate to property owners paying an additional 94¢ per month per \$100,000 of appraised property value. For voters who support less and smaller government, including Littleton FPD’s service area into the larger service area of South Metro, and increasing property taxes to 9.25 mills, may be contrary to this objective. In addition, some voters may wish to keep more local control over the provision of Emergency Services.

This Factual Summary is being provided in accordance with the authority granted by C.R.S. § 1-45-117(b)(l)