

Resolution No.: XXX

Meeting Date: August 26, 2025

**REQUEST TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO
TAKE ACTION ON FIRE APPARATUS ANTITRUST AND MONOPOLISTIC PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, every San Diegan deserves to know that when crisis strikes, our firefighters have the equipment they need to respond; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, private equity firms have aggressively bought up and consolidated fire apparatus manufacturers, creating massive corporate monopolies that put profits ahead of public safety; and

WHEREAS, this consolidation has driven prices sky-high, reduced production quality, and created years-long procurement delays; and

WHEREAS, the New York Times reports that ladder trucks have doubled in cost over just a few years, now topping over \$2.3 million; and

WHEREAS, while corporate conglomerates were monopolizing the industry and eliminating competition, they also started cutting production capacity just as demand for fire trucks surged; and

WHEREAS, instead of ramping up production to meet this demand, reports show that corporate conglomerates have actually shut down manufacturing plants, worsening procurement backlogs that have now ballooned into the billions; and

WHEREAS, our San Diego County Fire Protection District has experienced these challenges firsthand, seeing extensive production delays that stretch over 900 days and fire truck prices that have doubled from \$650,000 to over \$1.3 million; and

WHEREAS, local fire districts and municipal departments have few alternatives as the lack of competition in the industry leaves them with no choice but to accept these inflated costs and excessive wait times-further proof that corporate monopolies are putting profits ahead of public safety; and

WHEREAS, this issue is a growing concern across firefighting agencies. On February 20, 2025 the California Fire Service Leadership Alliance - comprising the California Fire Chiefs Association, the California Volunteer & Combination Fire Chiefs Association, the California Tribal Fire Chiefs Association, the Fire Districts Association of California, the League of California Fire Chiefs Department, the California Contract County Fire Chief Agencies, and the California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association - wrote a letter expressing their concern about this growing crisis and the need for more accountability; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that:

The County of San Diego requests the Public Safety Committees in the State Legislature take action against fire apparatus antitrust and monopolistic practices.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DAVID J. SMITH, ACTING COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Monica Hall, Senior Deputy County Counsel