



San Mateo County Firefighters
I.A.F.F. Local 2400
2022 San Mateo County
Candidates Questionnaire

1. Please tell us about yourself and share any accomplishments you have had in your current position and goals you have for the seat you are aspiring for? What is your campaign strategy?

My name is Sergio Zygmunt, and I'm running for San Mateo District 3 City Council. I'm running on a platform of transit, housing, and public safety. In my professional past, I've created and ran companies, brought products to market, and have worked for the government. My goals are to reduce corporate influence on San Mateo's politics and to improve the living and working conditions for the residents and employees of the City of San Mateo. My campaign strategy is to be as accessible as possible to the public. I am the only candidate in my district that has their cellphone number and direct email on all campaign materials.

2. Tell us about your thoughts on a San Mateo County merged fire department? What are the pros and cons of a county merged fire department? How would you assist in supporting consolidation?

I think a merged fire department would be good for the employees and fully support it, but I foresee some issues with the actual consolidation efforts - mostly revolving around the consolidation of contracts. Some of these concerns are alleviated by the fact that some fire districts are already consolidated. I think all the Unions should work together ahead of time to come up with a seamless contract merge process. I also think this merged fire department should include EMS to reduce the reliance on AMR and King American.

3. What is your opinion on the current county EMS system and could it be improved? Would you support

an EMS system under the umbrella of the county merged fire department?

I think the EMS system should consolidate under the counties. I don't like how EMTs and Paramedics have to work for private companies like AMR and King American. I think both BLS and ALS runs should be handled by a single county EMS provider, one that's not owned by AMR or King American. I feel that the employees would benefit greatly from being county employees - both from a wages and benefits perspective and a working conditions perspective. Just like fire, I think the consolidation of the unions will pose a challenge, but I think it's worth it. Another thing to consider is the patient experience and billing cycle. Patients will potentially see savings if the system is publicized since AMR would no longer bill patients. Finally, I feel a consolidated EMS system will ensure the providers are provided with quality equipment, tools, and medication as opposed to a private system where cost management will result in cheaper monitors, tools, and medications being utilized to maximize profits.

4. Labor shortages are being felt across the Labor Market. What ideas do you have to attract labor to your respective city? Do you support prevailing wages, benefits and working conditions for your city's employees?

Yes, I fully support prevailing wages and improved working conditions for our hardworking firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics. I also support paying above prevailing to make the system competitive and to attract and retain the best talent possible. The way I plan to achieve this is through consolidation. One fire and EMS system with one Union will allow for stronger collective bargaining and representation.

5. Is there anything else you would like to add?

I can be reached anytime at 650-473-5149 or sergio@sergiozygmunt.com. I would be very interested in a facility tour to better understand the day to day of the members.

Also, my campaign is focusing on digital engagement with voters and have invested in AI and machine learning which means that we are laser-focusing on voters to outreach to rather than one size fits all approach.

Done

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