

Cyndie Martel

From: Debra Hilleboe <dhilleboe@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 8:47 AM
To: CouncilAll
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please reconsider the Town's plan

Dear Ross Town Council,

As a board-certified emergency medicine physician, I am concerned about increasing emergency response times in Ross. With the loss of our firefighter-EMTs and paramedics, we have lost a critical component of our local emergency response capability.

Marin County EMS is actively working to reduce time to chest compressions and defibrillation, with the goal of having an AED (defibrillator) available *within four minutes of every location in the county*. This standard reflects well-established evidence that rapid intervention saves lives. Given this, I am concerned that current decisions in Ross appear to move us away from—rather than toward—these life-saving benchmarks.

In cardiac arrest, every one-minute delay significantly reduces the likelihood of survival and good neurological recovery. Cardiac arrest remains the leading cause of death nationally and here in Marin County. Fast response times are critical.

If it is possible to renovate and preserve our fire station bay at lower cost while restoring emergency response capacity, I respectfully ask why this option would not be pursued. I urge the Council to prioritize decisions that strengthen emergency response and align Ross with countywide public-safety goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Maltenfort Hilleboe, MD
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