



**City and County of San Francisco**  
**London N. Breed, Mayor**

**Department of Public Health**  
**Emergency Medical Services Agency**

## **Richard Pekelney**

***You Are Appreciated***

January 18, 2021



Rich was DHR's first DSW Volunteer since 2007. His work with DPH and the City actually predated the activation of the Emergency Volunteer Center (EVC). He reached out to DPH on March 16, the first day that the EOC was established in the Moscone Center, and the day that Shelter in Place was announced. He offered DPH his experience as an EMT and his desire to volunteer. Shortly thereafter, he was volunteering five days a week in DPH's Department Operations Center, Medical Branch.

For the EVC, Rich was our beta volunteer. He effectively tested our volunteer forms and processes, sometimes more than once, and gave patient, constructive suggestions for improvement. He was the first to receive a DSW Volunteer badge, the first to be officially deployed (even though it was a continuation of his volunteer work), and for those first few weeks, he was the only deployed volunteer.

Under Medical Group, he works with Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) on tracking Ultrasound and Lab testing enhancements at the Alternate Care Sites, Thomas Packs medical equipment and supplies program (for additional ACS and MCI responses) and assisting with the vaccination supplies. Rich has been excellent at reading, digesting and appropriately screening/directing a lot of intel on the pandemic for MHOAC and EMS. He also knows the City systems well and is great at knowing what is in and out of our MHOAC swim lane. We are up to 99 requests through MHOAC to the state and we have responded to at least twice that many. He is also very willing to spend extra time on weekends and evenings to be sure that urgent needs are being met.

Rich has been involved with EMS Agency as early as 1996 as a representative of the SF Paramedic Association until 2014, and then as a representative of the public on our EMS Advisory Committee. He is patient, diplomatic and tenacious at the same time. There is no detail that he overlooks and yet he gets the big picture. He is always ready and willing to acknowledge the work of others and has contributed to the "shout outs" more than anyone else.

He is an extraordinary human being, who is kind, patient and compassionate. The City owes him a debt of gratitude for his service during the pandemic!

**San Francisco EMS Agency**  
**25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 700 • San Francisco, CA 94102-6058**  
**(628) 217-6000 • [www.sfdph.org](http://www.sfdph.org)**