Mayor Kevin Johnson Brings Lifesaving Technology to Sacramento region via 9-1-1 Integrated Mobile App

PulsePoint empowers CPR-trained citizens and off-duty professionals to provide critical assistance immediately following cardiac arrest

SACRAMENTO, CA – Mayor Kevin Johnson and Sacramento-area fire departments have joined with the PulsePoint Foundation to bring life-saving technology to the region via PulsePoint, a mobile app designed to increase citizen awareness of cardiac events beyond a traditional “witnessed” area and engage them in potentially life-saving CPR.

“In a 3.0 city, we need to provide residents services and infrastructure so that connected citizens become part of the city’s network to solve problems,” said Mayor Johnson. “That’s exactly what PulsePoint does. It gives our residents the ability to know when there is a cardiac arrest, respond quickly, and attempt potentially life saving CPR before paramedics arrive.”

The initiative was formally launched Monday, December 14th at an event at Cesar Chavez Plaza adjacent to City Hall in Sacramento. Mayor Kevin Johnson was joined by Sacramento Fire Chief Walt White, Consumnes Fire Chief Tracey Hansen, Sacramento Metro Fire Chief Mark Wells, Folsom Fire Chief Ron Phillips, Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center Chief Executive Director Teresa Murray, and PulsePoint Foundation President Richard Price to discuss the rollout of the PulsePoint app and AED registry.

“By directly alerting those who are qualified and nearby, maybe in the business next door or on the floor above, PulsePoint is able to put the right people in the right place at the right time,” said Richard Price, President of the California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit PulsePoint Foundation.

The latest AHA guidelines, published in October in Circulation, state that such community programs could increase bystander CPR to the roughly 326,000 cardiac arrests that happen outside the hospital.
each year.

“The project expands PulsePoint coverage to the 1.4 million citizens of Sacramento County over an area of 1,000 square miles,” said Walt White, Sacramento Fire Chief. “Participating agencies include the Sacramento Fire Department, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Cosumnes Community Services District, and the Folsom Fire Department.”

About the PulsePoint Foundation
PulsePoint is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Through the use of location-aware mobile devices PulsePoint is building applications that work with local public safety agencies to improve communications with citizens, empowering them to help reduce the millions of annual deaths from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Deployment of the PulsePoint app can significantly strengthen the “chain of survival” by improving bystander response to cardiac arrest victims and increasing the chance that lifesaving steps will be taken prior to the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS). PulsePoint is supported by the Wireless Foundation, built and maintained by volunteer engineers at Workday and distributed by our marketing and implementation partner Physio-Control, Inc. Learn more at www.pulsepoint.org or join the conversation at Facebook and Twitter. The free app is available for download on iTunes and Google Play.

About Cardiac Arrest
Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States. The American Heart Association estimates that effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double or triple a person’s chance of survival. However, less than half of cardiac arrest victims receive bystander CPR and even fewer receive a potentially lifesaving therapeutic shock from a public access AED. Improving bystander CPR rates and access to AEDs is critical to the chain of survival, which requires: (1) early recognition of the emergency and phoning 911 for EMS, (2) early bystander CPR, (3) early delivery of a shock via a defibrillator if indicated and (4) early advanced life support and post-resuscitation care delivered by healthcare providers. Different than a heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest is caused when the heart’s electrical system malfunctions and the heart stops working properly. For every minute that passes without a SCA victim receiving resuscitation, the chances of that person surviving decrease 10 percent. After 10 minutes the chances of survival are minimal.