

*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: JULY 7, 2020**

**FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE RATE INCREASE - RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MAXIMUM AMBULANCE RATES.**

## **ISSUES:**

Consider the proposed increase to the emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation rates for ambulance providers and adopt a resolution establishing the revised maximum ambulance rates.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Receive and provide input on a proposed increase to the emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation rates for ambulance providers; and
2. Adopt a resolution reestablishing the revised maximum ambulance rates.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On May 20, 2020, the Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee, with Chair Perry, Vice Chair Melendrez and Member Condor present, considered the proposed ambulance transportation fee increase. After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to receive and order filed the proposed increase to the emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation fees for ambulance providers and recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution revising the maximum ambulance rates.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 5.66 applies to ambulance services. The City Council approves ambulance franchise agreements as well as the rates and charges for emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation services. The City's Ambulance Franchise Administrator is the Fire Chief or Designee, and Fire Chief Michael Moore has designated Deputy Fire Chief La Wayne Hearn as the City's Ambulance Franchise Administrator. Ambulance service is the transportation of those in need of medical attention classified as Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support or Critical Care.

Advanced Life Support provides pre-hospital emergency medical care, under the direct supervision of a base hospital at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during inter-facility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital.

Basic Life Support is emergency first aid without invasive techniques until the individual may be transported to a medical facility or until Advanced Life Support medical care is available.

Critical Care Transport is the medical transport of a patient between medical facilities requiring medical staff supervision.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### *Current Ambulance Service Providers:*

The City has agreements in place for ambulance services needed in the community. American Medical Response (AMR) is the exclusive provider for Advanced Life Support transport services. AMR, Cavalry, Mission and Premier Ambulance Companies provide Basic Life Support and Critical Care Transports within the City.

### *Ambulance Rates:*

According to Riverside Municipal Code 5.66.180, "No ambulance service shall charge more for its services than the rates and charges approved by the City. Rates and charges are initially set by a Council resolution." Resolution 22870 was established in 2015, by City Council to set ambulance transportation rates. The recommended increase is being proposed by the ambulance companies request due to minimal wage and equipment increases.

The current city established rates allowed for American Medical Response (AMR) are as follows:

Advanced Life Support	\$1,439.26
Basic Life Support	\$686.53
Critical Care Transport	\$1,857.50
Night	\$186.34
Oxygen	\$170.41
Mileage	\$39.84
Wait Time Every 15 Minutes	\$40.00
BLS or CCT Code 3 Transport	\$150.00

The current city established rates allowed for Premier Medical Transport, Cavalry and Mission Ambulance are as follows:

Critical Care Transport	\$1,500.00
Basic Life Support	\$550.00
Night	\$151.00
Oxygen	\$138.00
Mileage	\$31.00
Wait Time Every 15 Minutes	\$40.00

BLS or CCT Code 3 Transport	\$150.00
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The proposed new rate adjustment for the ambulance companies are as follows:

Non- Emergency	BLS	ALS	CCT	Mileage	Oxygen	Night	Wait Time	Code 3 Transport
American Medical Response	\$957.10	\$1,508.24	\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00
Cavalry Ambulance	\$957.10		\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00
Mission Ambulance	\$957.10		\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00
Premier Medical Transport	\$957.40		\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00

Emergency Rate	BLS	ALS	Mileage	Oxygen	Night	Dry Run
AMR	\$1,855.41	\$1,855.41	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$288.38

A CPI rate adjustment may be made annually, and such adjustment shall be effective as of the first day of July of each year.

The proposed rate adjustment mirrors the maximum rate allowed by Riverside County EMS Agency (REMS) for the departments longest franchise/permit holder (AMR). REMS does not perform an analysis on ambulance rates, instead they allow non-emergency ambulance companies to establish their own competitive rates.

The Fire Department has also consulted with Orange County EMS Agency and Los Angeles County EMS Agency regarding the non-emergency ambulance fee structure. The Los Angeles County EMS Agency is the only agency that we found that regulates and has a methodology for establishing non-emergency rates. The rates in which the Fire Department is proposing does not exceed the maximum allowable rates determined by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

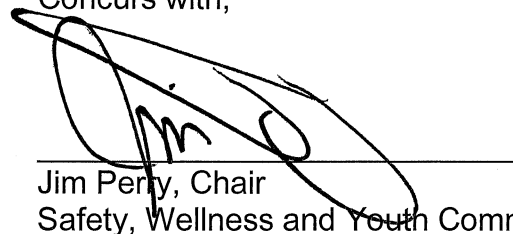
AMR has a long-standing history as an ambulance franchise provider with the City of Riverside. The rates and fees in which American Medical Response can charge exceeds what Mission, Cavalry and Premier Medical Transport are allowed. The proposed rate adjustment will give all current and future ambulance companies the ability to charge that same maximum amount.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City associated with the proposed increase to the emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation fees for ambulance providers.

Prepared by: Michael D. Moore, Fire Chief  
 Certified as to  
 availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
 Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager  
 Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Concurs with;



Jim Perry, Chair  
Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee

Attachments:

1. Riverside County EMS Agency Ambulance Rate Sheet FY 19/20
2. General Public Ambulance Rates- County of Los Angeles
3. Resolution 22870