

ORDINANCE No. 188577

Authorize Portland Fire & Rescue to provide limited fee-for-service patient transport under unique and unusual circumstances, and authorize application to Medicare as ambulance services provider. (Ordinance)

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. PF&R responds to approximately 63,000 emergency medical calls each year that may result in the need to transport patients to area hospitals.
2. Patient transportation is normally provided by private ambulance providers that bill for their services.
3. PF&R is seeking a limited expansion of its Emergency Medical Services to include ambulance transport service to area hospitals in unique and unusual circumstances.
4. This fee-for-service patient transport will be used when the private ambulance provider is unable to meet the demand for ambulance transport in the community. Examples of unique and unusual circumstances include high transport demand resulting from a major incident, excessive ambulance response delays caused by extreme weather, or a delayed ambulance response for a critical patient.
5. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), under the US Department of Health and Human Services, manages the Medicare provider application and requires providers to obtain a billing number before transporting Medicare patients and billing CMS for the service.
6. Transportation of Medicare patients without the ability to bill for the service constitutes disparate treatment for those patients that are transported by the private ambulance provider and billed for the service.
7. The CMS billing number application process requires a letter that assumes legal and financial responsibility for the City of Portland for any outstanding debt owed to CMS as a result of patient ambulance transport and billing.
8. Transport fees in Multnomah County are set by the Multnomah County Contract Compliance and Rate Regulation Committee. Current charges for ALS or BLS patient transport are \$1,008 plus \$23.17 per mile.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- a. Portland Fire & Rescue is authorized to provide patient transport under unique and unusual circumstances and charge a fee based on the schedule set by the Multnomah County Contract Compliance and Rate Regulation Committee.
- b. The Commissioner-in-Charge is authorized to sign a letter with the application to the CMS to obtain a CMS billing number that assumes legal and financial responsibility for the City of Portland for any outstanding debt owed to CMS as a result of patient ambulance transport and billing.

AUG 30 2017

Passed by the Council:

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Prepared by: Evelyn Brenes Eayrs
Date Prepared: August 9, 2017

Mary Hull Caballero

Auditor of the City of Portland

By Deputy 

Agenda No.
ORDINANCE NO. 188577
 Title

Authorize Portland Fire & Rescue to provide limited fee-for-service patient transport under unique and unusual circumstances, and authorize application to Medicare as ambulance services provider. (Ordinance)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Commissioner Dan Saltzman</p> | <p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>AUG 15 2017</u></p> |
| <p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance and Administration - Wheeler</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly</p> | <p>Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Deputy</p> |
| <p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: Portland Fire & Rescue Bureau Head: Mike Myers, Fire Chief <i>[Signature]</i></p> | <p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> <p>AUG 23 2017 PASSED TO SECOND READING AUG 30 2017 9:30 A.M.</p> |
| <p>Prepared by: Evelyn Brenes Eayrs Date Prepared: August 8, 2017</p> | |
| <p>Impact Statement</p> <p>Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p> | |
| <p>Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | |
| <p>City Auditor Office Approval: N/A</p> | |
| <p>City Attorney Approval:</p> | |
| <p>Council Meeting Date 08/23/2017</p> | |

AGENDA

TIME CERTAIN

Start time: _____

Total amount of time needed: _____
 (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

CONSENT

REGULAR

Total amount of time needed: 10 min
 (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

| FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA | COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| | YEAS | NAYS |
| 1. Fritz | ✓ | |
| 2. Fish | ✓ | |
| 3. Saltzman | _____ | |
| 4. Eudaly | ✓ | |
| Wheeler | ✓ | |