



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting October 1, 2019

DATE: September 12, 2019
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
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City Council Policy 29 Charitable Care Policy for EMS Patients

CAPTION:

Resolution amending the City Council Policies to add Policy 29 – Charitable Care Policy for City EMS specifying guidelines for waiving EMS charges for qualifying low-income patients.

SUMMARY:

This policy will establish criteria for certain patients receiving financial assistance for EMS Services beginning October 1, 2019 and will meet a requirement for reimbursement of the Corpus Christi Fire Department from the Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) is committed to providing the highest quality care to all its patients. CCFD recognizes that some patients may be unable to pay for all or a portion of the services provided by CCFD. As such, the proposed Charitable Care Policy will set criteria for receiving financial assistance for patients who meet certain socioeconomic thresholds. No patient will be denied financial assistance because of gender, race, creed, color, national identity/ethnic origin, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability. In addition, CCFD will provide, without discrimination, care for emergency medical conditions to individuals regardless of whether they are eligible for financial assistance.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is now requiring EMS providers to establish a Charitable Care policy in order to maintain eligibility for future Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program reimbursements. The policy must be in writing and approved by the governing body overseeing the EMS provider for eligibility.

Patients seeking Financial Assistance generally must complete an application with the CCFD's Contracted EMS Billing Company. However, if applicable, Presumptive Eligibility

may be determined in lieu of reviewing a Financial Assistance application. Patients who meet any of the criteria for Presumptive Eligibility will be deemed eligible for a 100% discount and will not be asked to submit an application for Financial Assistance.

A patient is only eligible for Financial Assistance after all other financial resources available to the patient have been exhausted and the patient is without sufficient income to cover out of pocket expenses, as determined by CCFD or its Contracted EMS Billing Company. Existing and potential financial resources for the patient, including but not limited to, private health insurance and any Governmental Healthcare Program, will be reviewed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve City Council Policy 29 – Charitable Care Policy for EMS. (Recommended)
2. Do not approve City Council Policy 29 – Charitable Care Policy for EMS. (Not Recommended)

FISCAL IMPACT: If approved, this will have little to no impact on normal collections as we traditionally collect less than 1% of the billed services to the population in which this policy targets. If not approved, we will be ineligible for uncompensated care reimbursement through the Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program for the reporting period beginning October 1, 2019. This would be a potential loss of more than \$1 million during FY 2021.

Funding Detail:

Fund:

Organization/Activity:

Mission Element:

Project # **(CIP Only)**:

Account:

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to add City Council Policy 29 – Charitable Care Policy for EMS specifying criteria for providing financial assistance to certain patients.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution