

## AGENDA



Thursday, June 21, 2007

**Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 107**

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**Subject:** Set a public hearing to consider and approve an ordinance on first reading regarding the application submitted by Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. for a non-emergency medical transfer franchise under Chapter 10-2 of the City Code. (Suggested Date and Time: July 26, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

**Fiscal Note:** There is no fiscal impact, a fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Ernie Rodriguez, EMS Deputy Director, 972-7203

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In order for a private ambulance company to provide non-emergency medical transfer services within the city limits it must obtain a franchise from the City of Austin. Chapter 10-2 of the City Code requires that a public hearing be held regarding such applications. The purpose of this RCA is to request that City Council set a public hearing for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2007, regarding a non-emergency transfer franchise application. Currently, two companies hold non-emergency transfer franchises in Austin, American Medical Response (AMR) and MetroCare Services-Austin, LP (MetroCare). Non-emergency medical transfers typically occur between skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, and private residences and are usually prescheduled by medical personnel.

Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc (Acadian) submitted a franchise application to take over the franchise currently held by MetroCare. MetroCare's current franchise will expire on October 22, 2007. Acadian plans to purchase MetroCare upon City Council approval. Acadian will take over all operations currently being handled by MetroCare. The current MetroCare staff will be offered employment with Acadian. MetroCare's current medical director, Dr. Rhett Reed, will continue to provide medical direction for the new franchise. All of MetroCare's Austin facilities, fleet and medical equipment will be acquired by Acadian.

Staff analysis of the franchise application is currently being conducted. This analysis will include a review of the applicant's operations, performance, and customer satisfaction ratings in its current markets. Staff will also consider the proposed improvements to the level of service being provided by MetroCare. The Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board will be reviewing the staff recommendation prior to the public hearing that is being requested for July 26, 2007.