

AGENDA



Thursday, August 9, 2007

**Emergency Medical Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 5**

Subject: Approve an ordinance on second reading to grant a non-emergency medical transfer franchise to Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. under Chapter 10-2 of the City Code.

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

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

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board.

Prior Council Action: 6/21/07 to set the public hearing; Public hearing was held on 7/26/07 and the ordinance was approved on first reading.

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 such an ordinance be approved on three readings. The purpose of this RCA is to approve an ordinance on second reading, regarding a non-emergency transfer franchise application by Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. 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 on May 11, 2007. MetroCare's franchise expires on October 22 and Acadian plans to purchase MetroCare following City Council's approval of its franchise application, and will then 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 recommends approval of the franchise application based on a review of the applicant's operations, performance, and customer satisfaction ratings in its current markets. This review also considered Acadian's proposed improvements to the level of service currently being provided by MetroCare. The term of the franchise would be 5 years. The Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board recommended approval of Acadian's application at its meeting on June 26, 2007.