

AGENDA



Thursday, March 6, 2008

Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 74

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance on first reading regarding the application submitted by American Medical Response of Texas, Inc. to renew a non-emergency medical transfer franchise under Chapter 10-2 of the City Code.

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

For More Information: Ernesto Rodriguez, Acting Executive Director, EMS 972-7048

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

Prior Council Action: December 19, 1996 to approve transfer of franchise from Gold Cross to AMR; June 11, 1998 to renew AMR's franchise for a five-year term; April 24, 2003 to renew AMR's franchise for a five-year term; February 14, 2008 to set public hearing for March 6, 2008

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 and three ordinance readings be held regarding such applications. The purpose of this RCA is to conduct a public hearing and first reading regarding a non-emergency transfer franchise application. Currently, two companies hold non-emergency transfer franchises in Austin, American Medical Response of Texas, Inc (AMR) and Acadian Ambulance Service (Acadian). Non-emergency medical transfers typically occur between skilled nursing facilities and hospitals and are usually prescheduled by medical personnel.

AMR has held a non-emergency medical transfer franchise with the City of Austin since 1996 when it took over the original franchise held by Gold Cross. AMR's current franchise will expire on June 23, 2008. AMR is requesting a renewal of the franchise for a five-year term.

Staff recommends approval of AMR's franchise renewal for a five-year term. This analysis was based on a review of the applicant's operations, performance, and customer satisfaction ratings as a current franchise provider in Austin. Failure to renew this franchise will result in only one non-emergency medical transfer franchise holder for the City of Austin.