RECOMMENDATION

That your Board:

a. Find that due to changes in industry costs, a rate adjustment for private ambulance service in the City of Los Angeles is needed;

b. Find that use of the rate study for the 2019-20 private ambulance service rate adjustment is appropriate;

c. Find that the Department’s proposed schedule of rates and charges (Attachment 1) and in the attached proposed Board Order No. 607 are just, reasonable, non-discriminatory, and non-preferential for all permitted private ambulance transportation services.

d. Rescind Board Order No. 606 and adopt the attached Board Order No. 607 establishing the above rates and charges for private ambulance service in the City of Los Angeles; and

e. Instruct the Commission Executive Assistant to forward the attached draft rate ordinance approving the resolution designated as Board Order No. 607 to the Mayor for approval by the City Council and Mayor.

f. Grant that the rates listed should be negotiable when contracted by or for the following types of entities:

- School districts or any educational facility in which the primary goal is to educate children 18 years of age or younger (This does not apply to medical facilities, medical office buildings, and hospitals).
- Charity or public events that have a limited time frame.
- Religious institutions (This does not apply to medical facilities, medical office buildings, and hospitals affiliated with a particular religion).
- Individuals for whom the ambulance rate is a hardship. When requested by the Department, a hardship declaration form must be submitted by the ambulance provider indicating the rate requested along with financial documentation indicating why the discounted rate should be approved.
DISCUSSION

The History of Rate Adjustment in the City of Los Angeles

The Board of Transportation Commissioners (Board) and the Department review possible methodologies for rate setting purposes in order to effectuate the best outcome for the City of Los Angeles, its permittees, drivers, and passengers. This report proposes what the Department believes is a fair and reasonable fee structure for the Ambulance services in the City.

In 1991, a rate study was conducted by the Department using what was called an operating ratio method. Later in 1996, the Department increased the 1991 base rates taking inflation into account.

In 1999, the Industry requested that the Department, rather than using the 1991 and 1996 method of proposing rates, begin basing its rates on those being charged in other California counties. At the time, referencing rates charged in other counties was a method used by the Los Angeles County EMS division to determine rates for service in areas outside of Los Angeles City limits.

With this request in mind, the Department engaged a consultant to review and report methodologies for determining rates for private ambulance service in the City of Los Angeles. Four methods were initially considered based on the use of those methods by other regulatory agencies in setting rates. The methodologies were Cost of Service Analysis, Operating Ratio Analysis, County of Los Angeles Survey, and Negotiated Rate Schedule.

A report was submitted to the Board with a recommendation to use an inflation adjusted method for odd years and a “blend of methods” for even years. The “blend of methods” included the inflation method, the survey method (which considers ambulance rates in other counties), and a combination of the County of Los Angeles survey and Negotiated Rate Schedule which looks at what Los Angeles City permitted companies charge in other jurisdictions throughout Los Angeles County.

Using this methodology, the Department averaged the results of three items: the change in existing rates when applying the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous calendar year; a survey of regulated rates in 11 specified counties in the State; and a survey of City regulated companies for rates they charge within the County of Los Angeles but outside of the City of Los Angeles boundaries.

During the periods 2011-13 and 2013-16, the Department requested actual rates and charges from all City regulated private ambulance companies for services provided throughout Los Angeles County, excluding trips that originated in the City of Los Angeles. There were very limited responses in those surveys, and a lot of staff time was used to conduct numerous follow up communications via telephone and email to obtain more data in an effort to secure a large sample size. However, despite the Department’s continuing efforts at industry outreach, only one company provided data for the 2011-13 survey, and only seven companies responded to the 2013-16 survey which constituted only 13 percent of all the permitted private ambulance companies in Los Angeles.

After conducting the survey, the results were tabulated and applied to this formula with the Department doing its best to extrapolate information from insufficient or incomplete data. The Department believes this to be an inefficient method of reviewing rates.
Proposed 2019-20 Methodologies

The Department typically would have used the previously mentioned methodology to yield the proposed rates and charges and as part of this method, it would have referred to the Los Angeles County as a basis for setting a maximum rate for Ambulance Service, essentially using the County rates to determine what is reasonable.

The Department proposes that the 2019-20 private ambulance rate adjustment recommendations be based on the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Service Ambulance Rate Schedule effective on July 1, 2019 (Attachment 2). Staff further proposes that service items without a corresponding County rate be based on the use of the CPI data adjustment for calendar years 2015-18 which compounded year over year is currently equal to 9.8721 percent (Attachment 3).

The County of Los Angeles’ Ambulance Rate Schedule can be found in Section 7.16.340 of the California Code of Ordinances for Los Angeles County. The methodology for adjusting Ambulance rates chargeable to the general public is codified in that section and the Department believes that it is unnecessary for the City of Los Angeles to create a separate methodology when it can simply align its rates with a proven method.

The County methodology takes into account important factors such as minimum wage ordinances, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers in the Western Region, and even lists exceptions and how to manage rates for those exceptions.

There are currently no rates listed for Emergency Response, Critical Care Nurse hourly rates, Pulse Oximeter, and Infusion Pump line rates in the County of Los Angeles Ambulance rate schedule. For this reason, the 9.8721 percent increase will be applied to the 2019-20 trip rates and charges for Emergency Response, Critical Care Nurse hourly rate, Pulse Oximeter, and Infusion Pump line rate.

Proposed 2019-20 Trip Rate Adjustments

The Department recommends applying the corresponding Los Angeles County rates (described above), to the proposed 2019-20 rates and charges shown below in Table 1. The charges for Emergency Response, Pulse Oximeter, and an Infusion Pump line are adjusted by the CPI compounded rate of 9.8721 percent and rounded to the nearest $0.25.
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Current City Rates B.O. 606</th>
<th>CPI 1 Adjusted Rates</th>
<th>County Rate2</th>
<th>2019-20 Proposed Rate 3</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Life Support (BLS)</td>
<td>$1,000.50</td>
<td>$1,099.27</td>
<td>$1,511.00</td>
<td>$1,511.00</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Life Support (ALS)</td>
<td>$1,347.25</td>
<td>$1,480.25</td>
<td>$2,268.00</td>
<td>$2,268.00</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage (per mile or fraction thereof)</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$19.78</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting Time (per 15 min after initial 15 min)</td>
<td>$37.50</td>
<td>$41.20</td>
<td>$64.00</td>
<td>$64.00</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standby Time per 15 min after initial 15 min)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLS</td>
<td>$48.00</td>
<td>$52.74</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS</td>
<td>$48.00</td>
<td>$52.74</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night Service (7 pm - 7 am)</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$21.97</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Oxygen</td>
<td>$88.25</td>
<td>$96.96</td>
<td>$97.00</td>
<td>$97.00</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
<td>$131.00</td>
<td>$143.93</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$144.00</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Therapist or Critical Care Nurse (for 1st 3 hrs)</td>
<td>$718.25</td>
<td>$789.16</td>
<td>$2,731.00</td>
<td>$2,731.00</td>
<td>280.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Therapist or Critical Care Nurse (after 3 hrs; per hr)</td>
<td>$96.00</td>
<td>$105.48</td>
<td>$154.00</td>
<td>$154.00</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulse Oximeter</td>
<td>$58.50</td>
<td>$64.28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$64.50</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilator</td>
<td>$168.75</td>
<td>$185.41</td>
<td>$187.00</td>
<td>$187.00</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infusion Pump (per line)</td>
<td>$80.50</td>
<td>$88.45</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$88.50</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The CPI cost of living calendar years 2015-18 compounded year over year increased to 9.8721 percent based on Transportation and Medical Care indices from Los Angeles—Riverside—Orange County (on January 1, 2018, Department of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics redesigned its statistical data jurisdiction to the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim), CA used 50 percent of Transportation indices and 50 percent of Medical Care indices.
2. The County of Los Angeles Ambulance Rate Schedule.
3. The charges for Emergency Response, Pulse Oximeter, and Infusion. Pump line rate are adjusted by CPI compounded rate of 9.8721 percent and are rounded to the nearest $0.25.

It is expected that the adjusted rates and charges, as recommended, will result in City residents receiving enhanced response times from increased competition, and an increase in the ability of the companies to recruit and retain their trained medical personnel, including Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. The companies will be better able to provide updated equipment, attend to driver safety, and provide increased vehicle maintenance. The financial impact on City residents should be minimal because the vast majority of private ambulance users are those covered by Medicare, County of Los Angeles contracts, and private insurance.

Currently, Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 71.24 states:

“No person shall charge, collect, demand, receive or arrange for any compensation for the service of any vehicle defined in Section 71.00 in this City used for the conveyance of passengers, any amount, rate, or compensation different than the charges or rates established by the Board.”

Private Ambulance is a transportation mode listed in Section 71.00 of the LAMC which means that the rates set by the City of Los Angeles must be charged, collected, demanded, received or arranged for by the parties involved with no deviation other than what is allowable by statute, which includes regulations related to Medi-Cal or Medicare.

With that understanding, the Department believes that the rates listed should be negotiable when contracted by or for the following types of entities:

- School districts or any educational facility in which the primary goal is to educate children 18 years of age or younger (This does not apply to medical facilities, medical office buildings, and hospitals).
- Charity or public events that have a limited time frame.
- Religious institutions (This does not apply to medical facilities, medical office buildings, and hospitals affiliated with a particular religion).
- Individuals for whom the ambulance rate is a hardship. When requested by the Department, a hardship declaration form must be submitted by the ambulance provider indicating the rate requested along with financial documentation indicating why the discounted rate should be approved.

Along with approving Board Order No. 607 establishing 2019-20 private ambulance rates and charges, it is recommended that the Board rescind the authority for the existing rates and charges established per Board Order No. 606.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

No fiscal impact to the City of Los Angeles is anticipated. The rates and charges are those charged to customers. They do not affect the fees paid to the City for permitting private ambulance vehicles.
Proposed Rate Schedule

The following proposed rates are authorized for one patient:

**Base Rate**

Response to call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level.................................................................$1,511.00

Response to call with equipment and personnel for use of an ambulance at an advanced life support (ALS) level..............................................$2,268.00

**Mileage Rate**

Each mile or fraction thereof..............................................................................$19.00

**Waiting Time:** Elapsed time other than standby time necessitated by conditions beyond control of the operator at the loading and/or discharge points.

For each 15-minute period or major fraction thereof after an initial 15-minute period.................................................................................$64.00

**Standby Time:** Elapsed time an ambulance is called to stand at a particular special event or other location for service as needed. The standby time charge is the base trip rate (BLS or ALS) for the applicable level of service and, in addition, the following rate for each 15-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 15 minutes of standby time:

- Basic Ambulance (BLS).................................................................$61.00
- Paramedic Ambulance (ALS)..........................................................$61.00

**Special Charges**

The following charges are authorized for special ancillary services:

1. Night Service: Service provided after 7 PM and before 7 AM...........$26.00
2. Use of oxygen......................................................................................$97.00
3. An emergency call requiring an immediate response and the use of red lights and siren.................................................................$144.00
4. Services of a Respiratory Therapist or Critical Care Nurse...$2,731/3 hrs and $154.00/hr after 3 hrs
5. Use of a Pulse Oximeter......................................................................$64.50

ATTACHMENT 1
6. Use of a Volume Ventilator..............................................................$187.00

7. Use of an Infusion Pump (per line)......................................................$88.50

8. Medical Supplies..................................................................................Replacement cost

Additional Patients

1. Fifty percent of the Base Rate, Mileage Rate and Night Service charge for one patient shall be added for each additional patient except as provided in “2.” below. Other Special Charges shall be made as authorized.

2. For group loads from the same origin to the same destination, a single charge each shall be made for the Base Rate, Mileage Rate, Waiting Time, and Night Service. The total of these rates and charges shall be divided equally among the patients. Other Special Charges shall be made as authorized herein.
April 15, 2019

TO: Fire Chief, All 9-1-1 Paramedic Provider Agencies  
    CEO, Private Provider Agencies  
    City Manager, Each Los Angeles County City

FROM: Cathy Chidester  
    Director

SUBJECT: GENERAL PUBLIC AMBULANCE RATES  
         JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH June 30, 2020

Attached are the maximum allowable rates chargeable to the general public for ambulance transportation as of July 1, 2019, as per Section 7.16.340, Modification of Rates, of the County Ordinance (Attachment I).

Transportation services provided on or after July 1, 2019 may not be billed above the allowable maximum rates according to the attached Rate Schedule.

If you have any questions, please call John Telmos, Chief Prehospital Operations at (562) 378-1677.

CC:jt  
03-18a

Attachment

C: Enrique Sandoval, Contract Manager, Contracts and Grants Division, Health Services  
   Brian Chu, Deputy County Counsel, Health Services  
   Cristina Talamantes, Ordinance liaison, Board of Supervisors Executive Office
Section 7.16.280  Rate Schedule For Ambulances

A.  A ground ambulance operator shall charge no more than the following rates for one patient:

    Rates Effective July 1, 2019

1.  Response to a non-emergency call with equipment and personnel at an advanced life support (ALS) level $2,268.00
2.  Response to an emergency 9-1-1 call with equipment and personnel at an advanced life support (ALS) level $2,428.00
3.  Response to a nonemergency call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level $1,511.00
4.  Response to an emergency 9-1-1 call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level $1,620.00
5.  Mileage rate. Each mile or fraction thereof $19.00
6.  Waiting time. For each 30-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 30 minutes of waiting time at the request of the person hiring the ambulance $128.00
7.  Standby time. The base rate for the prescribed level of service and, in addition, for each 30-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 30 minutes of standby time $122.00

B.  This section does not apply to a contract between the ambulance operator and the County where different rates or payment mechanisms are specified.

Section 7.16.310  Special Charges

A.  A ground ambulance operator shall charge no more than the following rates for special ancillary services:

1.  Request for services after 7 PM and before 7 AM of the next day will be subject to an additional maximum charge of $26.00
2.  Persons requiring oxygen, shall be subject to an additional maximum charge per tank or fraction thereof, and oxygen delivery equipment to include nasal cannula and/or oxygen mask, of $97.00
3.  Neonatal transport $243.00
4.  Registered nurse or respiratory therapist specialty care transport with equipment and personnel for up to 3 hours of transportation time $2731.00
5.  Registered nurse and respiratory therapist specialty care transport with equipment and personnel for up to 3 hours of transportation time $3086.00
6.  Registered Nurse and/or Respiratory Therapist per hour after the first 3 hours $154.00
7.  Volume ventilator $187.00
8.  Disposable medical supplies $28.00
B. Where other special services are requested or needed by any patient or authorized representative thereof, a reasonable charge commensurate with the cost of furnishing such special service may be made, provided that the ambulance operator shall file with the Director of the Department of Health Services a schedule of each special service proposed and the charge therefore, which charge shall be effective unless modified, restricted, or denied by the Director of the Department of Health Services. Special services are defined as services provided to a patient that are unique and individual to a specific patient’s needs, and are performed on a limited basis.

C. Charges for special services provided to patients that are new services, but will become an industry standard, must be reviewed and a rate commensurate with the service developed prior to ambulance operators charging such rate to the general public. Such rates shall not be charged to patients until approved by the Board of Supervisors.

D. This section does not apply to a contract between an ambulance operator and the County where different rates or payment mechanisms are specified.

Section 7.16.340 Modification of Rates.

The maximum rates chargeable to the general public as set forth in Sections 7.16.280 and 7.16.310 of this chapter shall be adjusted effective July 1, 1992, and on July 1st of each year thereafter, to reflect changes in the value of the dollar. For each of the one year periods respectively beginning July 1, 1992 and July 1, 1993 such adjustments shall be made by multiplying the base amounts by the percentage change in the transportation portion of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February. Beginning July 1, 1994, and on each July 1 thereafter, such adjustments shall be determined by multiplying the base amounts by the average of the percentage changes of the transportation portion and of the medical portion of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February. Beginning July 1, 2017, and on every July 1 thereafter, such adjustments shall be determined by multiplying seventy-five (75) percent of the base amounts by the percentage change of the minimum wage change in Los Angeles County as defined in County Code Section 8.100.040 - Minimum Wage and by multiplying twenty-five (25) percent of the base amounts by the percentage change of the Medical Care line item of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Customers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February, except for the following changes: Registered Nurse Respiratory Therapist per hour after the first three (3) hours adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the current charge by the percentage change of the minimum wage change in Los Angeles County as defined in County Code Section 8.100.040 - Minimum Wage: mileage adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the current charge for the percentage change of the transportation line item of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Customers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February: and Oxygen, Disposable Medical Supplies, and a Ventilator adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the current charges by the percentage change of the Medical Care line item of the Consumer Price Index for all of the Customers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12 month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February. The result so determined shall be rounded to the nearest whole number and added or subtracted, as appropriate, to the rate. The result so determined shall be rounded to the nearest whole number and added or subtracted, as appropriate, to the rate. The Director of the Department of Health Services, or authorized designee, shall initiate implementation of these rate changes by notifying in writing each licensed private ambulance operator in Los Angeles County thereof, and any other individual or agency requesting such notification from the Director. Such notice shall be sent by first class mail no later than June 15 of the prior period.
City of Los Angeles Ambulance Adjusted Rates Based on Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Base Rate = 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Medical Care</th>
<th>Ambulance % Change Combined CPI change-Transportation(50%) &amp; Medical Care(50%)</th>
<th>Ambulance Rate Increase Compounded change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>181.6</td>
<td>328.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>183.167</td>
<td>339.962</td>
<td>3.61536117</td>
<td>2.634687071</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>192.592</td>
<td>352.961</td>
<td>3.823662645</td>
<td>4.286514416</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>178.582</td>
<td>363.449</td>
<td>2.971433105</td>
<td>-0.645583472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>190.881</td>
<td>374.594</td>
<td>3.066454991</td>
<td>4.325213872</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>207.775</td>
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<td>3.858310598</td>
<td>5.543481144</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>213.954</td>
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<td>3.834241107</td>
<td>3.534722245</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>212.371</td>
<td>409.321</td>
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<td>0.610760651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>209.334</td>
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<td>0.910901218</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>427.143</td>
<td>2.182187019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>191.320</td>
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<td>7.631636244</td>
<td>3.849074059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>198.796</td>
<td>471.404</td>
<td>2.536833147</td>
<td>2.939663104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>213.140</td>
<td>475.681</td>
<td>0.907289713</td>
<td>2.778424351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ambulance Rate Total Increase using compounded change from 2015 to 2018: 9.8721%
BOARD ORDER NO. 607
RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, the Board and City Council have directed the Department to recommend an adjustment in rates for private ambulance service in the City of Los Angeles for 2019-20; and

WHEREAS, after considering evidence presented at a public hearing, together with the Department recommendations, the Board has determined that an adjustment in private ambulance rates is justified; and

WHEREAS, the Board has found and determined that the following rate schedule and conditions are just, reasonable, nondiscriminatory and non-preferential for all companies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Board Order No. 606 establishing rates to be charged by operators of private ambulance service is hereby rescinded;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following rate schedule and conditions are hereby fixed and established as the legal rates to be charged by private ambulance service in the City of Los Angeles:

Base Rate

Response to call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level.................................................................$1,511.00

Response to call with equipment and personnel for use of an ambulance at an advanced life support (ALS) level when requested by a patient or authorized representative..........................$2,268.00

Mileage Rate

Each mile or fraction thereof.................................................................$19.00

Time Rate

Waiting Time: Elapsed time other than standby time necessitated by conditions beyond control of the operator at the loading and/or discharge points.

For each 15-minute period or major fraction thereof after an initial 15-minute period.................................$64.00
Standby Time: Elapsed time an ambulance is hired to stand at a particular special event or other location for service as needed. For pre-scheduled special events, standby service is arranged at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Other standby service results from requests for an ambulance arising from unanticipated events. The “Standby Time” charge is the “Base Rate” (BLS or ALS) for the applicable level of service and, in addition, the following rate for each 15-minute period or major fraction thereof after the first 15 minutes of “Standby Time”:

- Basic Ambulance (BLS) ......................................................... $61.00
- Paramedic Ambulance (ALS) ..................................................... $61.00

Special Charges

a. Night Service: Each patient provided service after 7 P.M. and before 7 A.M. ......................................................................................... $26.00

b. Individuals requiring oxygen shall be subject to a maximum charge of ................................................................. $97.00

c. An emergency call requiring an immediate response and the use of red lights and siren ........................................................................... $144.00

d. Services of a Respiratory Therapist or Critical Care Nurse.......... $2,731/3 hrs and $154.00 /hr after 3 hrs

e. Use of a Pulse Oximeter ......................................................................................................................... $64.50

f. Use of a Volume Ventilator ...................................................................................................................... $187.00

g. Use of an Infusion Pump (per line) ........................................................................................................... $88.50

h. Medical Supplies ................................................................................................................................. Replacement Cost

i. Where other special services are requested by a patient or his/her authorized representative, a reasonable charge commensurate with the cost of furnishing such special service may be made, provided that each permitted ambulance operator shall file with the Board a schedule of each special service proposed and the charge thereof; the schedule shall become effective upon approval by the Board or as modified or restricted by the Board; these special charges shall be itemized on each bill and statement rendered by the permittee. No special charge shall be made other than those filed with and approved by the Board. The Department shall not recommend to the Board any special charge for services which was included in the schedule of rates authorized in this ordinance.

Additional Patients

a. Fifty percent of the “Base Rate”, “Mileage Rate” and “Night Service” charge for one patient shall be added for each additional patient. Other “Special Charges"
shall be made as authorized by this Board Order.

b. For group loads from same origin to same destination, a single charge shall be made each for the “Base Rate”, “Mileage Rate”, “Waiting Time Rate” and “Night Service”. The total of these rates and charges shall be divided equally among the patients. Other “Special Charges” shall be made as authorized by this Board Order.

Negotiable Rates

The rates listed should be negotiable when contracted by or for the following types of entities:

- School Districts or any educational facility in which the primary goal is to educate children 18 years of age or younger (This does not apply to Medical Facilities, Medical Office Buildings and Hospitals).
- Charity or public events that have a limited time frame.
- Religious institutions (This does not apply to Medical Facilities, Medical Office Buildings, Hospitals affiliated with a particular religion).
- Individuals for whom the ambulance rate is a hardship. When requested by the Department, a hardship declaration form must be submitted by the ambulance provider indicating the rate requested along with financial documentation indicating why the discounted rate should be approved.

Rebates

It shall be unlawful for any ambulance operator to give directly or indirectly, or cause to be given, any rebates, commissions, reserve rebates, or any reduced rates or cash discounts to any person, or persons, or groups of any nature, except as provided herein or which may be authorized by the Board by regulation.

Total Charge

**Non-Standby Service**: The total charge shall be the sum of the appropriate “Base Rate” plus the “Mileage Rate” applied to the distance actually traveled with patient or patients, plus the “Waiting Time” rate applied to requested or necessary waiting time, plus any “Special Charges” which apply.

**Standby Service**: The total charge per ambulance shall be the sum of the appropriate “Base Rate” and “Standby Time” rate applied to the requested standby time, plus any “Special Charges” applied to any special services provided by the operator and requested by the person or organization hiring standby service. The “Standby Time Rate” shall be computed from 15 minutes after the time the ambulance arrives at the requested location or 15 minutes after the time standby service was requested to commence, whichever is later, until the time the ambulance leaves the standby location, with or without a patient, or until the ambulance is discharged by an authorized representative of the person or organization requesting standby service, whichever
occurs first. In the event the ambulance is required to leave the standby location and returns to complete the standby service assignment at a later time, a second “Base Rate” charge shall not be made.

If a replacement ambulance is required to report because of transportation of a patient, the “Standby Time Rate” charge per 15 minutes shall not be interrupted and a second “Base Rate” charge shall not be made.

The charge for transportation of a patient from a standby location shall be separate from and in addition to the “Base Rate” and “Standby Time Rate” charges.

Applicability

The permittee shall not levy any rate or charge for private ambulance trips originating in the City of Los Angeles other than authorized herein.

The foregoing rates and charges shall comprise the total of the permittee's service authorized by permit granted by the City of Los Angeles.

Statement on Bills

Each bill for service rendered given to the customer shall contain a statement that complaints may be referred to the Department of Transportation, 100 S. Main St., 1st Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012, telephone (213) 928-9600.

I CERTIFY THAT the foregoing Resolution, designated as Board Order No. 606, was adopted by the Board of Transportation Commissioners at its meeting held March 9, 2017.

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 9th day of March, 2017.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

ATTEST:

Jasmin San Luis, Commission Executive Assistant
Board of Transportation Commissioners
City of Los Angeles

B19-024a.isk
ORDINANCE NO. _____________

An ordinance approving a resolution of the Board of Transportation Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles, designated as Board Order No. 607, adopted October 10, 2019, fixing rates and charges for private ambulance service in the City of Los Angeles.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The resolution of the Board of Transportation Commissioners designated as Board Order No. 607 and its implementing ordinance are hereby rescinded and superceded by the resolution of the Board of Transportation Commissioners adopted on October 10, 2019, designated as Board Order No. 607, establishing and prescribing the legal rates to be charged by all private ambulance companies in the City of Los Angeles, and the said rates are hereby approved, as provided in Section 22.484 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code as follows:

Base Rate

Response to call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level.................................................................$1,511.00

Response to call with equipment and personnel for use of an ambulance at an advanced life support (ALS) level when requested by a patient or authorized representative.........................................................$2,268.00

Mileage Rate

Each mile or fraction thereof.........................................................$19.00

Time Rate

Waiting Time: Elapsed time other than standby time necessitated by conditions beyond control of the operator at the loading and/or discharge points.

For each 15-minute period or major fraction thereof after an initial 15-minute period.................................$64.00

Standby Time: Elapsed time an ambulance is hired to stand at a particular special event or other location for service as needed. For pre-scheduled special events, standby service is arranged at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Other standby service results from requests for an ambulance arising from unanticipated events. The “Standby Time” charge is the “Base Rate” (BLS or ALS) for the applicable level of service and, in addition, the following rate for each 15-minute period or major fraction thereof after the first 15 minutes of “Standby Time”:

Basic Ambulance (BLS).................................................................................$61.00
Paramedic Ambulance (ALS).........................................................................$61.00

Special Charges

a. Night Service: Each patient provided service after 7 P.M. and before 7 A.M. .................................................................$26.00
b. Individuals requiring oxygen shall be subject
to a maximum charge of ................................................................. $97.00

c. An emergency call requiring an immediate response
and the use of red lights and siren ................................................ .................... $144.00

d. Services of a Respiratory Therapist or Critical Care Nurse ...........$2,731/3 hrs
and $154/hr after 3 hrs

e. Use of a Pulse Oximeter ................................................................. $64.50

f. Use of a Volume Ventilator ............................................................ $187.00

g. Use of an Infusion Pump (per line) ................................................ $88.50

h. Medical Supplies ........................................................................ Replacement Cost

i. Where other special services are requested by a patient or his/her authorized
representative, a reasonable charge commensurate with the cost of furnishing
such special service may be made, provided that each permitted ambulance
operator shall file with the Board a schedule of each special service proposed
and the charge thereof; the schedule shall become effective upon approval by
the Board or as modified or restricted by the Board; these special charges shall
be itemized on each bill and statement rendered by the permittee. No special
charge shall be made other than those filed with and approved by the Board.
The Department shall not recommend to the Board any special charge for
services which was included in the schedule of rates authorized in this ordinance.

Additional Patients

a. Fifty percent of the “Base Rate”, “Mileage Rate” and “Night Service” charge for one
patient shall be added for each additional patient. Other “Special Charges” shall be
made as authorized by this Ordinance.

b. For group loads from same origin to same destination, a single charge shall be made
each for the “Base Rate”, “Mileage Rate”, “Waiting Time Rate” and “Night Service”. The
total of these rates and charges shall be divided equally among the patients. Other
“Special Charges” shall be made as authorized by this Ordinance.

Negotiable Rates

The rates listed should be negotiable when contracted by or for the following types of
entities:

- School Districts or any educational facility in which the primary goal is to educate
  children 18 years of age or younger (This does not apply to Medical Facilities,
  Medical Office Buildings and Hospitals).
- Charity or public events that have a limited time frame.
- Religious institutions (This does not apply to Medical Facilities, Medical Office
  Buildings, Hospitals affiliated with a particular religion).
- Individuals for whom the ambulance rate is a hardship. When requested by the
Department, a hardship declaration form must be submitted by the ambulance provider indicating the rate requested along with financial documentation indicating why the discounted rate should be approved.

Rebates

It shall be unlawful for any ambulance operator to give directly or indirectly, or cause to be given, any rebates, commissions, reserve rebates, or any reduced rates or cash discounts to any person, or persons, or groups of any nature, except as provided herein or which may be authorized by the Board by regulation.

Total Charge

**Non-Standby Service:** The total charge shall be the sum of the appropriate "Base Rate" plus the "Mileage Rate" applied to the distance actually traveled with patient or patients, plus the "Time Rate" applied to requested or necessary waiting time, plus any "Special Charges" which apply. All rates are to be computed from the time the ambulance arrives for hire until the ambulance is discharged by the patient or his/her authorized representative.

**Standby Service:** The total charge per ambulance shall be the sum of the appropriate "Base Rate" and "Standby Time" rate applied to the requested standby time, plus any "Special Charges" applied to any special services provided by the operator and requested by the person or organization hiring standby service. The "Standby Time Rate" shall be computed from 15 minutes after the time the ambulance arrives at the requested location or 15 minutes after the time standby service was requested to commence, whichever is later, until the time the ambulance leaves the standby location, with or without a patient, or until the ambulance is discharged by an authorized representative of the person or organization requesting standby service, whichever occurs first. In the event the ambulance is required to leave the standby location and returns to complete the standby service assignment at a later time, a second "Base Rate" charge shall not be made.

If another ambulance is required to report because of transportation of a patient, the "Standby Time Rate" charge per 15 minutes shall not be interrupted and a second "Base Rate" charge shall not be made.

The charge for transportation of a patient shall be separate from and in addition to the "Base Rate" and "Standby Time Rate" charges.

Applicability

The permittee shall not levy any rate or charge for private ambulance trips originating in the City of Los Angeles other than authorized herein.

The foregoing rates and charges shall comprise the total of the permittee's service authorized by permit granted by the City of Los Angeles.

Statement on Bills

Each bill for service rendered given to the customer shall contain a statement that
complaints may be referred to the Department of Transportation, 100 S. Main St., 1st
Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012, telephone (213) 928-9600.

Section 2. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of said
resolution shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punishable by a fine or
not more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), by imprisonment in the County Jail for a
period not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it
published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of
Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one
copy on the bulletin board located in the Main Street lobby to the City Hall; one copy on the
bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy
on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of
Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles,
at its meeting of______________________________

Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk,

By __________________________
Deputy

Approved______________________

______________________________
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

Mike Feuer, City Attorney

By ________________________________

MICHAEL NAGLE, Deputy City Attorney

Date ________________________________

File No. __________________________

B19-024b.isk