

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	21062	Agenda Number	99.
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Meeting Date:	1/17/2013	Department:	Emergency Medical Services
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Subject

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

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

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; April 24, 2008 to renew AMR's franchise for a five-year term; December 6, 2012 set a public hearing to renew AMR's franchise for a five year term.

For More Information: Ernesto Rodriguez, Director, 972-7148

Boards and Commission Action: The Austin - Travis County EMS Advisory Board reviewed this as an agenda item at the meeting on Nov. 7, 2012 and a five year renewal was approved on a motion 7 approved and 1 abstention.

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

The purpose of this RCA is to request that Council hold a public hearing regarding the renewal of the franchise held by American Medical Response of Texas, Inc. and approve the franchise agreement on first reading.

American Medical Response has held a franchise with the City of Austin since December, 1996. On Oct. 25, 2012, the EMS department received an application from American Medical Response of Texas Inc. requesting a renewal of the franchise for another five-year term. All the required application elements have been submitted and the application fee has been paid in full.

In order for a private ambulance company to provide non-emergency transfer services within the limits of the City of Austin, the provider must hold a franchise from the City. Non-emergency transfers typically occur between skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, and private residences and are usually prescheduled by medical personnel. Currently, two companies hold such franchises, Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc.(Acadian) and American Medical Response of Texas Inc. (AMR)

The EMS department recommends approval of this franchise renewal. American Medical Response of Texas Inc. has proven over the past 17 years that they can provide satisfactory service to the Austin community. Call volume levels indicate that two franchise providers are necessary to handle the demand for non-emergency ambulance transfers. Failure to renew this franchise will result in only one franchise holder for the City of Austin. In its November 7, 2012 meeting, the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board recommended approval of the franchise renewal for five years with a vote of 7 approved and 1 abstention. Attached is a memo outlining staff recommendations.