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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: December 2, 2008

Agenda Item No. 8(C)(1)(J)

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Resolution No. R-1304-08

Subject: Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department Emergency Medical Services Rate Schedule

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve an adjustment to the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department's (MDFR) emergency medical services (EMS) rate schedule by conforming the Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency, Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1) and Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2) rates to the Medicare allowable rates for those categories of services, and increasing the mileage rate from $7.50 to $10 per mile. All other rates remain unchanged.

SCOPE

This proposed resolution has a countywide impact.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

MDFR estimates additional revenues of approximately $460,000 annually based on the new rate schedule. Specific rates changes are detailed in the background section of this recommendation.

TRACK RECORD/MONITOR

The Consumer Services Department (CSD) is responsible for regulating for-hire transportation, including ambulance services.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 4, Article I of the Miami-Dade County Code, sets forth regulations governing air and ground ambulances and emergency medical transport vehicles. Pursuant to Section 4-7, all rates charged for the transportation of persons in these units shall be established by the Board after public hearing. No other rates may be charged except as provided in Section 4-7(a), which includes rates as may be determined by Federal law.

The current EMS rate schedule for MDFR has been in place since July 2003. Since that time, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen 30 percent. In addition, since 2003 the existing rates have not been adjusted for increases in the cost of fuel, staffing, health care supplies, and emergency vehicles. During the last five years, the average salary for International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) bargaining unit personnel has increased 42 percent, medical supply costs have increased 40 percent and fuel costs have more than doubled.

Currently, MDFR rates are lower than the allowable Medicare reimbursement rates, which results in forfeiture of funds that could legitimately be collected by MDFR from Medicare. MDFR's current schedule is $9 less than the current rate allowed under Medicare for BLS, $23 less for ALS1, and $93 less for ALS2. Therefore, MDFR has requested a revised EMS schedule to conform the rates for BLS, ALS1 and ALS2 to the Medicare allowable rates for those service categories and increases the mileage rate from $7.50 to $10 per mile. The rates for Specialty Care Transport, supplies, drugs and procedures will remain unchanged. In addition, MDFR has requested that these rates be automatically adjusted to

the Medicare allowable rates every time the rates change. Under the Medicare rules, these rates are annually adjusted on January 1st to account for inflation. This annual update is based on the percentage increase in the CPI for all urban consumers for the 12-month period ending in June of the prior year.

The proposed schedule of rates per patient is as follows:

	Current Rate	Adjusted Rate
Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1)	380.00	402.94
Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2)	490.00	583.20
Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency	330.00	339.32
Specialty Care Transport	600.00	600.00
Mileage, per mile or fraction thereof	7.50	10.00
Oxygen per tank or fraction thereof	30.00	30.00
IV/IO Solutions	25.00	25.00
Cardiac Monitoring	25.00	25.00
Cervical Collar	25.00	25.00
Backboard	25.00	25.00

Last year, MDFR transported 70,000 people. Approximately 31 percent of the trips were BLS, 67 percent were ALS1 and 2 percent were ALS2. The proposed schedule will have minimal impact on consumers because ambulance transports are typically paid by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. According to MDFR's records, 31 percent of their collections are Medicare related; 10 percent Medicaid; 53 percent private insurance; and 6 percent private pay. Under its "hardship program," MDFR provides a write-off of up to $500 to uninsured or underinsured patients who meet the federal poverty guidelines and are unable to pay for services. Their overall collection rate is 60 percent.

In the case of a Medicare transport, Medicare pays 80 percent of the allowable rate. The remaining 20 percent represents the co-pay amount, which is submitted to a patient's secondary insurance or Medicaid (if applicable), or billed directly to the patient. Medicare will not pay more than their allowable rate regardless of the local fee structure. The Medicare co-pay under the proposed rates is $67.86 for BLS trips, $80.50 for ALS1 trips and $116.64 for ALS2 trips. This represents a minimal increase in the co-pay from the current schedule of $1.84 for BLS, $4.50 for ALS1, and $18.64 for ALS2. These amounts would increase by the CPI factor each year with the annual Medicare adjustment.

The revised rate schedule will have no impact on Medicaid clients. Medicaid pays a flat rate of $136 for BLS trips and $190 for ALS1 and ALS2 trips. Ambulance providers cannot bill the client for the difference.

A comparison of ambulance and emergency medical service rates in Florida and nationally is attached. The revised rates remain consistent with or lower than the various rates around Florida and nationally

Assistant County Manager

EMS GROUND TRANSPORT FEE SURVEY 6/2008

JURISDICTION	ALS 1	ALS 2	BLS	SCT	OXYGEN	MILEAGE	IV SOLUTIONS	CARDIAC MONITOR	CERVICAL COLLAR	BACKBOARD/ LEGBOARD	INTUBATION	SPECIAL HANDLING	NON RESIDENT	OTHER SUPPLIES/ DRUGS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY														
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue	$380.00	$490.00	$330.00	$600.00	$30.00	$7.50	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Miami Beach	$380.00	$490.00	$330.00	N/A	$30.00	$7.50	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	Included	N/A	Included
City of Miami	$390.00	$550.00	$330.00	$650.00	$30.00	$7.50	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	Included	Included	$30.00	N/A	Included
Miami-Dade Private	$380.00	$380.00	$330.00	N/A	$30.00	$7.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	BLS $30, Al	N/A	Included
Hialeah	$380.00	$380.00	$330.00	N/A	$30.00	$7.50	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Key Biscayne	$390.00	$550.00	$330.00	N/A	$30.00	$7.50	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	Included	Included	$30.00	N/A	Included
Coral Gables	$250.00	N/A	$150.00	N/A	$22.00	$6.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
STATE OF FLORIDA														
Broward County	$460.00	$575.00	$450.00	N/A	$27.00	$8.00	$30.00		$25.00	$25.00			N/A	
Citrus County	$500.00	$598.00	$500.00	N/A	Included	$8.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Polk County	$600.00	$700.00	$600.00	$800.00	Included	$9.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Hallandale Baech	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	N/A	$20.00	$9.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Highlends County	$345.00	$485.00	$315.00	N/A	Included	$8.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Oakland Park	$400.00	$530.00	$400.00	N/A	$24.00	$9.00	$32.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	Included	N/A	$27.50
Okaloosa County	$380.00	$500.00	$380.00	$650.00	Included	$8.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	BLS $500, ALS	$600
Margate	$700.00	$750.00	$700.00			$10.00								
Leon County	$858.00	$999.00	$715.00			$13.40								
Hollywood	$450.00	$550.00	$450.00			$9.00								
Miramar	$700.00	$750.00	$700.00			$10.00								
Pompano Beach	$750.00	$750.00	$750.00		$50.00	$10.00								
Serasota County	$600.00	$650.00	$600.00			$10.00								
Boca Raton	$554.44	$715.42	$554.44	$745.22		$10.15								
Fort Lauderdale	$452.00	$525.00	$425.00			$8.50								
Lee County	$500.00	$600.00	$400.00		$25.00	$9.00								
Tampa	$360.00	$500.00	$330.00	$550.00	Included	$5.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Orange County	$502.00	$614.00	$390.00	N/A	Included	$8.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Monroe County	$500.00	$600.00	$500.00	N/A	Included	$9.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Breverd County	$469.00	$499.00	$369.00	N/A	$25.00	$6.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Palm Beach County	$470.00	$630.00	$470.00	N/A	Included	$8.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Lauderdale Lakes	$460.00	$575.00	$450.00	N/A	$27.00	$8.00	$30.00	Included	$25.00	$25.00	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Jacksonville	$635.00	$660.00	$470.00	N/A	Included	$10.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Plantation	$360.00	$480.00	$330.00	N/A	Included	$7.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Coral Springs	$450.00	$500.00	$400.00	N/A	Included	$7.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Collier County	$700.00	$750.00	$700.00	N/A	Included	$12.25	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
OTHER AREA JURIDICTIONS														
New York City, NY	$800.00	$700.00	$475.00	N/A	$50.00	$7.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
San Francisco, CA	$850.00	$850.00	$700.00	N/A	N/A	$15.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	$215.00
Los Angeles, CA	$889.00	$903.50	$622.00	N/A	N/A	$14.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Detroit, MI	$550.00	$550.00	$400.00	N/A	$50.00	$7.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Dellas, TX	$600.00	$600.00	N/A	N/A	$36.00	$9.00	$37.60	Included	$20.18	$56.40	Included	Included	$125 additional	$125 treatment non-transport
Dekalb County, GA	$475.00	$475.00	$425.00	N/A	$36.00	$6.50	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Les Vegas, NV	$710.41	$777.72	$675.16	N/A	Included	$20.53	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
San Diego, CA	$865.00	$1,103.00	N/A		$10.00	$13.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Phoenix, AZ	$665.00	$665.00	$592.00	N/A	Included	$13.80	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Plano, TX	$550.00	$550.00	N/A	N/A	Included	$10.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	$85 additional	Included
Fairfax, VA	$500.00	$675.00	$400.00	N/A	Included	$10.00	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Boston, MA	$1,375.00	$1,870.00	$935.00	N/A	Included	$11.55	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	N/A	Included
Average State FL	$475.94	$570.35	$434.63	$600.00	$24.60	$8.31	$30.67	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00			
Average Other Areas	$719.12	$809.94	$580.46		$36.40	$11.49	$37.60		$20.18	$56.40			$102.50	$170.00

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Miami-Dade County, Florida will meet on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at approximately 9:30 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers, Second Floor, Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW First Street, Miami, Florida to consider:

Resolution approving and adjustment to the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department's authorized emergency medical Services rate schedule

A person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Economic Development and Human Services Committee of the Board of County Commissioners, with respect to any matter considered at its hearing, will need a record of the proceedings. Such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 2, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(C)(1)(J)

Please note any items checked.

_____ **"4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised**

_____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**

_____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**

_____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**

_____ **Budget required**

_____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**

_____ **Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation**

_____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**

_____ **Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)**

_____ **No committee review**

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Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(C)(1)(J)
12-2-08

RESOLUTION NO. **R-1304-08**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RATE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board, in accordance with Chapter 4, Article I of the Code, approves a request by the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department to adjust its authorized emergency medical services rate schedule.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Carlos A. Gimenez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman **aye**
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman **aye**

Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**absent**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Carlos A. Gimenez	**aye**	Sally A. Heyman	**aye**
Joe A. Martinez	**aye**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Dorrin D. Rolle	**aye**	Natacha Seijas	**aye**
Katy Sorenson	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of December, 2008. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: **Kay Sullivan**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. D.F.

Daniel Frastai