

ORIGINAL

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6029-A

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Bellevue adopting a new Chapter 4.50 of the Bellevue City Code to recover certain costs of providing Basic Life Support emergency medical services transport.

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue currently provides basic life support ("BLS") emergency medical services ("EMS") and BLS emergency medical services transport ("BLS Transport") without charge; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020, as an exercise of the power granted by RCW 35.27.370(15), the City Council of the City of Bellevue has discretion to charge fees to those receiving EMS Transport from the City; and

WHEREAS, such BLS Transport user fees are often covered by medical insurance policies, including but not limited to Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, funds derived from the voter approved King County Levy are insufficient to fully fund the City's BLS and BLS Transport costs; and

WHEREAS, as a result, BLS and BLS Transport services must be subsidized by funds from the City's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the taxes paid by City residents and residents within the Extended Bellevue Fire Service Area contribute to the General Fund and to the provision of BLS and BLS Transport costs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that those benefiting from the City's BLS Transport should be charged a fee to reimburse the City for at least some portion of the cost of the BLS Transport; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new chapter 4.50 is hereby adopted to read as follows:

Chapter 4.50

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT FEES

4.50.010 BLS Transport user fee imposed.

A. All persons receiving basic life support emergency medical services transport ("BLS Transport") by the City shall be charged and billed a BLS Transport user fee ("the Fee"). The initial Fee is set at \$600 per transport plus \$14.00 per mile.

The Fee may be adjusted in the future as necessary by the City Council. The City Manager or his/her designee shall establish a procedure to implement, bill, and collect Fees.

B. A resident of the City, who supplies the City with the medical insurance information and documentation needed to bill his or her insurance provider for the Fee, and who assigns his or her insurance benefits for the same to the City, shall not be billed for that portion of the Fee that is in excess of amounts paid by his or her insurer(s).

C. A non-resident, who supplies the City with the medical insurance information and documentation needed to bill his or her insurance provider for the Fee, and who assigns his or her insurance benefits for the same to the City, shall be billed for that portion of the Fee that is in excess of amounts paid by his or her insurer(s).

D. A person, regardless of residence, who does not supply the City with the medical insurance information and documentation needed to bill his or her insurance provider or who fails to assign such benefits to the City because he or she is unwilling, or because he or she does not have any type of insurance coverage for such charges, shall be billed for the entire Fee.

E. The Fee herein imposed shall not apply to persons transported by the City from jurisdictions outside the City or Extended Bellevue Fire Service Area.

F. The use of the term "insurance" or any variation thereof in this section shall include Medicare and Medicaid.

G. The use of the term "BLS Transport" in this section shall mean: Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, including BLS ambulance services as defined by the state (Chapter 18.73 RCW, now or as hereafter amended). The ambulance must be staffed by an individual who is qualified in accordance with state and local laws as an emergency medical technician basic (EMT Basic). Basic emergency medical technicians perform non-invasive, basic emergency treatment.

H. The use of the term "resident" in this section shall mean: a person whose principal place of residence is within the boundaries of the City or within the Extended Bellevue Fire Service Area.

I. The use of the term "Extended Bellevue Fire Service Area" in this section shall include the contract communities of Beaux Arts, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, Newcastle, Yarrow Point and King County Fire Protection District 14.

4.50.020 Medicare and Medicaid.

Charges for the BLS transport authorized by this Chapter shall be construed and implemented in a manner consistent with Medicare and Medicaid requirements, when applicable. If any method or procedures authorized by this Chapter for the purpose of establishing, implementing, imposing or collection of charges for BLS Transport is found to conflict with Medicare and or Medicaid requirements, the conflicting part of this Chapter shall be inoperative to the extent the same conflicts with Medicare and/or Medicaid requirements. The operation of the remainder of this Chapter shall remain unaffected.

1256-ORD
12/08/11

4.50.030 Policy and Financial Assistance.

A. It is the City's policy that ability to pay is not a condition of BLS Transport service. All aspects of emergency medical services the City currently provides, including BLS Transport, shall be provided to all patients without discrimination toward those with no ability or inadequate means to pay.

B. The City Manager or his/her designee shall establish a program consistent with criteria and rules set forth in WAC 246-453-001 through 246-453-060, now or as hereafter amended, to provide financial assistance and debt forgiveness to persons that do not have the ability to pay for some or all of the Fee.

Section 2. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after passage by the City Council.

Passed by the City Council this 12 day of December, 2011 and signed in authentication of its passage this 13 day of December, 2011.

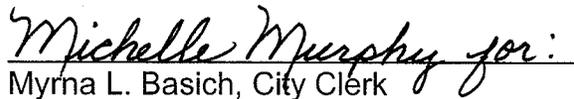
(SEAL)


Don Davidson, DDS
Mayor

Approved as to form:
Lori M. Riordan, City Attorney


Monica A. Buck, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:


Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk
Published 12/15/11