

7-24-19

ORDINANCE NO. 31289

An ordinance amending Chapter 15D, "Emergency Vehicles," of the Dallas City Code by amending Sections 15D-4 and 15D-5; providing a definition of hardship assistance; adding a reduction to ambulance service fees with approved hardship assistance; providing authority to create a hardship assistance policy and procedure; providing a penalty not to exceed \$500; providing a saving clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the city council finds that the provision of ambulance services to every resident of the City of Dallas is essential to the health and safety of all residents health; and

WHEREAS, the city council finds the cost of ambulance service is a hindrance to healthcare services for many residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas finds that establishing a hardship assistance program to defray the costs of ambulance services is a matter of public health and safety and serves the public purpose of making emergency medical services more readily available to residents; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That Section 15D-4, "Definitions," of Division 1, "General Provisions," of Article I, "Ambulances," of Chapter 15D, "Emergency Vehicles," of the Dallas City Code is amended by adding a new paragraph (18.1) to read as follows:

"(18.1) HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE means the reduction of ambulance service charges assessed to a transported patient or the payment-responsible party on behalf of a transported patient approved by the city manager, department director, or designee."

SECTION 2. That Paragraph (c) of Section 15D-5, "Emergency Ambulance Service Provided by Fire Department; Fee," of Division 2, "Emergency Medical Services," of Article I,

“Ambulances,” of Chapter 15D, “Emergency Vehicles,” of the Dallas City Code is amended to read as follows:

“(c) The person receiving emergency ambulance service, whether transported by ambulance or treated without being transported by ambulance, and any person contracting for the service shall be responsible for payment of all fees less any reduction in fees received from hardship assistance. In the case of service received by a minor, the parent or guardian of the minor shall be responsible for payment of all fees less any reduction in fees received from hardship assistance on behalf of the qualifying minor.”

SECTION 3. That Section 15D-5, “Emergency Ambulance Service Provided by Fire Department; Fee,” of Division 2, “Emergency Medical Services,” of Article I, “Ambulances,” of Chapter 15D, “Emergency Vehicles,” of the Dallas City Code is amended by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

“(e) The city manager or his or her designee shall adopt an ambulance hardship assistance policy and the procedures for administering the policy.”

SECTION 4. That a person violating a provision of this ordinance, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

SECTION 5. That Chapter 15D of the Dallas City Code shall remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this ordinance.

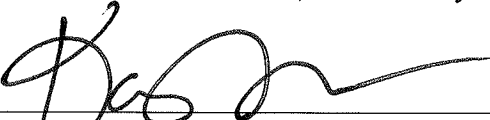
SECTION 6. That any act done or right vested or accrued, or any proceeding, suit, or prosecution had or commenced in any action before the amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, shall not be affected or impaired by amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, and shall be treated as still remaining in full force and effect for all intents and purposes as if the amended or repealed ordinance, or part thereof, had remained in force.

SECTION 7. That the terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable and are governed by Section 1-4 of Chapter 1 of the Dallas City Code, as amended.

SECTION 8. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so ordained.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CHRISTOPHER J. CASO, Interim City Attorney

By  _____
Assistant City Attorney

Passed AUG 28 2019



PROOF OF PUBLICATION – LEGAL ADVERTISING

The legal advertisement required for the noted ordinance was published in the Dallas Morning News, the official newspaper of the city, as required by law, and the Dallas City Charter, Chapter XVIII, Section 7.

DATE ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL AUG 28 2019

ORDINANCE NUMBER 31289

DATE PUBLISHED AUG 31 2019

ATTESTED BY: