

INTRODUCED: July 27, 2020

AN ORDINANCE No. 2020-167

As Amended

To amend City Code §§ 10-79, concerning the award of franchises and permits to operators of emergency medical service vehicles, 10-80, concerning the responsibility of authorized providers to respond to the City’s centralized dispatch center, and 10-83, concerning the suspension of authorization to operate emergency medical service vehicles, to make modifications to the City’s regulations governing the operation of emergency medical service vehicles in the city.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron – Mayor Stoney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 14 2020 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That sections 10-79, 10-80, and 10-83 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015) be and are hereby **amended** and reordained as follows:

**Sec. 10-79. Awarding of franchises and permits.**

It is in the best interest of the City to create and to regulate a unified emergency medical services system. It is the policy of the City to promote the provision of adequate and continuing ambulance service to transport sick or injured persons in the metropolitan area in order to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the public residing in this area.

AYES:            8            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:    SEP 14 2020    REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_    STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

In furtherance of this policy, the City may, from time to time, award or revoke by ordinance franchises or permits for the operation of emergency medical service (EMS) vehicles, subject to such public health, safety, and general welfare requirements as it may impose under this article. The holder of a franchise or permit shall be referred to in this article as an “authorized provider.” Any franchise or permit, other than any franchise granted to the Richmond Ambulance Authority, shall be for a period of two years; however, an authorized provider may apply for a new franchise or permit to replace an expiring franchise or permit. No franchise or permit may be transferred by any means, direct or indirect, including, without limitation, change of ownership or control, trusteeship, and sale of assets. The award of a franchise or permit may be conditioned upon the attainment of norms for quality of care and response times that the City establishes for its emergency medical services system generally.

**Sec. 10-80. Centralized EMS dispatch.**

All authorized providers under this article shall be dispatched from the emergency medical services dispatch center designated by the City. No authorized provider shall publish or advertise any telephone number for the purpose of receiving requests for emergency medical services except the emergency number (911) of the emergency medical services dispatch center. All authorized providers shall, at all times, obey the directions of the emergency medical services dispatch center, including, by way of illustration and without limitation, location of units, positioning movements, and run responses. However, neither any authorized provider that is exempted by Section 10-81 from advanced life support equipment and staffing requirements nor any authorized provider of aeromedical services shall [~~not~~] in normal operations be subject to the requirements of this section, [~~but~~] provided that any such authorized provider may be required to comply with centralized dispatch instructions in a disaster.

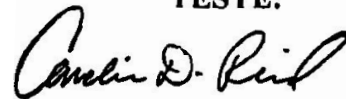
**Sec. 10-83. Suspension of authorization to operate.**

The Chief [~~Administrative Officer~~] of Fire and Emergency Services may summarily suspend any franchise or permit, except for a franchise or permit granted to the Richmond Ambulance Authority, issued pursuant to this article for any reason involving a danger to public health, safety or welfare, including bankruptcy or insolvency. Such a suspension shall not exceed two weeks in length, and any provider so suspended shall have a right to a hearing before the [~~Emergency Medical Services Control Board~~] Chief Administrative Officer, who may (i) reinstate the franchise or permit immediately, (ii) take no action to modify the duration of the suspension pursuant to this section, or (iii) extend the suspension for a period of up to 90 days and impose additional conditions on the authorized provider, either or both. The hearing shall be de novo. It shall comply with due process requirements but shall not be governed by strict rules of evidence or procedure.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

**A TRUE COPY:**

**TESTE:**



**City Clerk**



# CITY OF RICHMOND

## INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

**O&R REQUEST**

**DATE:** 06/29/2020 **EDITION:** 1

**TO:** The Honorable Members of City Council

**THROUGH:** The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor  7/17/2020

**THROUGH:** Lenora Reid, Acting Chief Administrative Officer 

**FROM:** Melvin Carter, Chief of Fire 

**RE:** Amend language City Code § 10-79, 10-80, and 10-83

**ORD. OR RES. No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE:** To amend City Code §10-79, concerning the award of franchises and permits to operators of non-emergency medical service vehicles to grant the City authority to revoke any franchise or permit issued under this section and set as two (2) year duration for any franchise or permit issued under this section other than the franchise granted to Richmond Ambulance Authority which is of unlimited duration. To amend City Code §10-80, to add language citing an exemption of any franchised or permitted aeromedical provider from centralized dispatch services, and to amend City Code § 10-83, to grant the Fire Chief authority to summarily suspend a franchise or permit and provide for a review of the Fire Chief's decision by the CAO and establish the actions that the CAO may take on the suspension.

**REASON:** The original City Code language did not place any limit on the duration of a franchise or permit, and had a requirement for centralized dispatch services that are not practical for aeromedical providers for hospital to hospital flights, and provided by review by an oversight board that no longer exists

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of ordinance as submitted.

**BACKGROUND:** An amendment is required to authorize the Fire Chief of the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services the authority to oversee and regulate both initial and renewal permit applications; and alter the language requirement for centralized dispatch service; and authorize the Fire Chief of the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services to summarily suspend any franchise or permit issued pursuant to this article for any reason involving a danger to public health, safety or welfare, including bankruptcy or insolvency. This action

may then be appealed to the Chief Administrative Officer in place of an oversight board that no longer exists.

**FISCAL IMPACT / COST:** None

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** None

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY:** None

**REVENUE TO CITY:** None

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon adoption

**REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE:** July 27, 2020

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:** September 14, 2020

**REQUESTED AGENDA:** Consent

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:** Public Safety

**CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:** Richmond Ambulance Authority and Department of Emergency Communication

**AFFECTED AGENCIES:** Richmond Fire and Emergency Services, Richmond Ambulance Authority, and Department of Emergency Communication

**RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.:** None

**REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S):** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** None.

**STAFF:**