

March 24, 2008

Alderman Robert Donovan  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
City Hall Room 205  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Donovan:

Pursuant to Milwaukee Codes, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Health to review each year the ambulance conveyance rates and fees for equipment and procedures for calls dispatched by the City's Emergency Medical Services-911 dispatch system. The Commissioner of Health is to report these findings and any recommended rate adjustments to the Common Council.

My recommendations for rate adjustments have been based on health related cost indexes specified in section 75-15-14-b. In addition I have consulted with the City Economist, Dennis Yaccarino and reviewed the recommendations set forth in City of Milwaukee Common Council Legislative File Number 061232.

Attached is information on the health related cost indexes specified in section 75-15-14-b. There was a 3.0% increase in the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care from 2006 to 2007.

For residents of the City of Milwaukee, I am recommending that the Basic Life Support (BLS), BLS Emergency rates be increased 3.0%. This would set both the resident BLS and resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates at \$422.00. Last year a treatment without transport fee was added to the ordinance. I am recommending that when patients do receive treatment and are not transported, a \$75.00 BLS non-transport fee will remain in effect.

For non-residents both the BLS and non-resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates would be set at \$488.00. When patients receive treatment and are not transported, a \$125.00 BLS non-transport fee will remain in effect.

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Whenever a certified ambulance provider provides an advanced life support conveyance under the terms of the Private Provider Interfacility Unit Protocol , my recommendation is that the provider is authorized to charge the same rates as established by the fire department and set forth in 75-17-a-d. I am further proposing that the BLS and ALS ancillary charges and drug rates set by the fire department be accepted. Until such time that these rates are changed, the current rates established in 2007 shall remain in effect.

The mileage rate contains reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. The current mileage rate is \$12.00. There have been increases in the CPI for gasoline (7.2%) and in the CPI Private Transportation rate (3.4%). I am therefore recommending a modest (5%) increase in the mileage rate to \$12.60 per mile.

If you have further questions or require additional clarifications, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bevan K. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE  
Commissioner of Health

Attachment

cc: Douglas Holton, Fire Chief  
Gloria Murawsky, Deputy Fire Chief  
Jennifer Meyer, Budget and Policy Manager, Sr.  
Rick Zethner, Bell Ambulance  
Jim Baker, Curtis Ambulance  
Linda Wiedmann, MedaCare Ambulance  
Bob Rausch, Paratech Ambulance