

**MINORITY REPORT  
TO THE BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT POLICY REVIEW TASK FORCE  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following is submitted as a Minority Report by Bell Ambulance.

As a preamble, Bell Ambulance commends the Task Force, and specifically its Chair, for diligently pursuing the Task, one which sparked many passionate discussions (all of which were aired) and many tense moments (all of which Alderman Puentes handled decisively, but with tact and aplomb).

As mentioned in the Majority Report, the Basic Life Support Transport System and its interface with the Milwaukee Fire Department ("MFD") has worked well for more than 20 years under the current ordinance/handbook system with oversight by the Ambulance Service Board. Any current service issues can and should be handled by incorporating performance standards in the handbook, which itself has the force of an ordinance. Indeed, the current system strikes a delicate balance between the private ambulance providers who supply the bulk of the 45,000 annual basic life support ("BLS") transports and the MFD, which is the first responder for life-threatening emergencies and which handles the bulk of the advanced life support ("ALS") transports. This balance is crucial because, as reported by the City Comptroller's Office early in the process, the City cannot afford to provide BLS transports and, absent the private ambulance providers (which provide the BLS transports at no cost to the City), the City could not provide a complete 9-1-1 system. Unfortunately, the Majority Report recommendation tips this balance in favor of the MFD, which has, for years, lobbied overtly and covertly to take over the BLS transports, the Comptroller's report notwithstanding. Under the Majority Report, the Ambulance Service Board would be eliminated, and the Fire Chief would be in control of the entire system. In effect, the Chief, the past three of whom have sought the elimination of private ambulance providers from the 9-1-1 system, would be directly overseeing BLS transports. To make matters worse, the relationship between the MFD and the private ambulance providers would be governed by a contract, not by ordinance. According to the City Attorney, this situation significantly lessens the private providers' due process rights, should the Fire Chief overreach.

Moreover, under the guise of Continuous Quality Control ("CQC") (currently handled by Milwaukee County), the Fire Chief would be given access to virtually every record of the private ambulance providers, including their financial data, which heretofore has never been divulged.

In short, should the recommendations of the Majority be adopted, it would open the door for any Fire Chief to "regulate" private providers out of the system, thus mandating the City at prohibitive expense to provide BLS transports, despite the City Controller's admonition that it should not.

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November 17, 2005

Via Messenger

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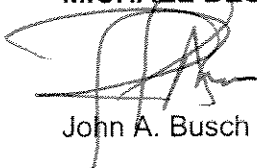
Re: *Minority Report of Bell Ambulance*

Dear Terry:

Pursuant to your request, enclosed find the Minority Report of Bell Ambulance to the Basic Life Support Transport Policy Review Task Force Findings and Recommendations.

Very truly yours,

**MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP**



John A. Busch

JAB/kmb  
Enclosure

cc: Bruce Schrimpf, Esq. (w/encl. via messenger)