

DRAFT

April 1, 2013

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

Dear Alderman Witkowski:

Pursuant to Milwaukee Codes, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Health to review each year 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 that will be set forth in City of Milwaukee Common Council Legislative File Number 121747.

There was a 7.4% increase in the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care from 2011 to 2012.

For residents of the City of Milwaukee, I am recommending that the Basic Life Support (BLS), BLS Emergency rates be increased 7.4%. This would set both the resident BLS and resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates at \$568. In addition, I am recommending that the BLS non-transport fee be increased from \$126 to \$135.

For non-residents both the BLS and non-resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates would be set at \$657. When patients receive treatment and are not transported, the BLS non-transport fee be increased from \$180 to \$193.

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 remain set at \$851.34.

The mileage rate contains reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. In addition, the Milwaukee CPI-Transportation for 2011-2012 increased by 0.6% and the Milwaukee CPI-Gasoline increased by 2.7%. Therefore, the Mileage fees should increase by 27.1%, from \$18.50 to \$19.00 per mile.

Currently, MFD has an agreement to transport bariatric patients. I recommend that the MFD be able to bill at the BLS rate listed above of \$613 for these patients.

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

Sincerely,

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health