



# NEWPORT BEACH

## City Council Staff Report

December 10, 2019  
Agenda Item No. 4

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Jeff Boyles, Fire Chief - 949-644-3101, jboyles@nbfd.net

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**TITLE:** Rescinding Resolution No. 2015-77 and Adopting Resolution No. 2019-105: Amending the Paramedic Subscription Program Pursuant to Chapter 5.60 of the Newport Beach Municipal Code

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The Newport Beach Fire Department seeks to amend and clarify membership eligibility in the paramedic subscription program, known as Fire Medics. The proposed changes have no impact on the cost of the membership program.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Adopt Resolution No. 2019-105, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Rescinding and Replacing Resolution No. 2015-77 Relating to the Paramedic Subscription Program Service Charges Pursuant to Chapter 5.60 (Paramedic Service User Fees) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code.*

### **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:**

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Newport Beach Fire Department (Nbfd) provides paramedic emergency medical services (EMS) to the community and has offered a paramedic subscription program (Program), commonly referred to as Fire Medics, since 1975. The program is open to eligible Newport Beach residents and businesses through an annual subscription fee (Attachment A). The subscription fees collected are used solely to maintain and enhance the ability to provide emergency personnel and equipment in support of EMS operations.

The program offers the following benefits for paramedic and emergency medical services and transportation provided by the NBFD:

- No out of pocket expenses. For insured members, payment received from their insurance provider is accepted as payment in full. If uninsured, membership fully covers the cost of the services provided.
- Unlimited usage. No matter how often a member calls for emergency services, there are no additional fees.
- Coverage for family members and guests. Family members living at the registered property and guests at the property are included in the cost of membership.
- Workforce and patron protection. Eligible business members can provide coverage for employees while working at a subscribed business location and for patrons in the subscribed business.

Since its inception, program membership has included Newport Beach residents and businesses. The popular program has been successful in the generation of an estimated \$250,000 in annual revenue for EMS operations. Currently, there are approximately 5,100 members enrolled in the program.

#### Proposed Program Amendments

NBFD staff conducted a review of the program and its membership structure. To clarify eligibility and benefits of the program, amendments are reflected in the attached Resolution (Attachment B). A brief summary of the proposed amendments are listed below.

- Resident members are any person that is a resident of Newport Beach and a guest or visitor of a resident who is an active program member and for whom the subscription fee has been paid.
- Business members are any corporation, partnership, company, business, organization or other entity with a workplace located in Newport Beach, which has an active City of Newport Beach (City) business license.
- Business membership is limited to businesses located within the boundaries of Newport Beach with a maximum of 150 employees.
- Homeowner Associations and entities with overnight guests are not eligible for membership.
- For benefits to apply, the emergency precipitating the call for service must have occurred on the resident or business property.

Membership Fees

The fees for program membership remain unchanged as outlined in the below chart.

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Enrollment Fee</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
Resident	\$60	Family members living at the designated property and guests or visitors for incidents that occur on the property.
Business	\$60	Business* and up to 10 owners and employees at the designated business and patrons or visitors for incidents that occur on the designated property.
Additional owner and employee coverage for member businesses	\$25	Additional fee per group of 10 owners and employees for a maximum of 150 owners and employees or \$410 annually.
*Business includes any corporation, partnership, company, business, organization or other entity with a workplace within the boundaries of Newport Beach.		

Examples of fee structure for business membership:

1. Business with 10 or less owners and employees pays \$60 per year.
2. Business with 50 owners and employees pays \$160 (\$60 enrollment fee plus four groups of 10 employees) per year.
3. Business with 150 owners and employees pays \$410 (\$60 enrollment fee plus 14 groups of 10 employees) per year.
4. Businesses with over 150 owners and employees are not eligible for membership.

Program subscription fees are invoiced each January. If enrollment occurs during the year, the subscription fee is prorated. For members receiving a municipal statement from the City, the fee is divided equally by the six-billing periods and paid with their bi-monthly bill (i.e., resident members are billed \$10 bi-monthly). For members who do not receive a municipal statement from the City, the full-annual amount is due upon submitting an application or the member is invoiced for the full amount each January.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Fire Medics Program Brochure  
Attachment B – Resolution No. 2019-105