Chapter 5.85

AMBULANCES

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Section 5.85.010 Purpose

The City Council declares it to be in the public interest, and for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the city and its environs to provide the highest level of emergency medical services reasonably practicable. This chapter is enacted as an exercise of the police power of the City of Vancouver.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.020 Definitions

"Advanced Life Support" or "ALS" means invasive medical services requiring advanced emergency medical assessment and treatment skills as defined by Chapter 18.71 RCW.

"Ambulance Service Contractor" or "CONTRACTOR" means the firm or entity which is under contract with the City of Vancouver (COV) to respond to all medical requests originating within the Clark County Emergency Medical Services District #2 (EMSD2) and/or the COV Contracted Service Area (CSA).

"Basic Life Support" or "BLS" means noninvasive medical services requiring basic medical treatment skills as defined by Chapter 18.71 R.C.W.

"Emergency Medical Services" or "EMS" means medical treatment and care which may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical facility, including ambulance transportation between medical facilities.

"Emergency Medical Technician" or "EMT" means a person who is authorized to render emergency medical care pursuant to R.C.W. 18.73.
"Medical Program Director" or "Director" or “MPD” means the Medical Program Director for Clark County certified by the Secretary of the Department of Health pursuant to Chapter 18.71 R.C.W.

"Patient" means any person injured, sick, incapacitated, or otherwise defined by the Medical Program Director, requiring medical treatment and care of emergency medical services.

"Routine Transport" means a 7-digit medical request that does not meet the Medical Program Director's 911 transfer protocols.

"System Standard of Care" or "Standard of Care" means the combined compilation of all standards for prehospital medical care including but not limited to priority dispatching protocols; pre-arrival instruction protocols; medical protocols (i.e. first responders and ambulances); protocols for selecting destination hospitals; standards for certification of prehospital care personnel (i.e. medical call-takers, first responders, EMTs, and on-line medical control physicians); standards for permits (i.e. ambulances, first responder units, helicopter rescue units, and special use mobile intensive care services); response time standards; standards governing on-board medical equipment and supplies; and standards for licensure of ambulance services and first responder agencies. The Standard of Care shall serve as both a regulatory and contractual standard of care and performance.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.030 No Duty Created
No particular duty, relationship or obligation of the City or any official to any particular individual, group or entity shall be deemed created because of this chapter or because of any action or inaction pursuant to its provisions or authority. It is the specific intent of this chapter that the implementation and enforcement of this chapter shall be discretionary and not mandatory.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.040 Advanced Life Support Services by Contract
The City may contract with a private ambulance service provider for advanced life support services at rates and under conditions approved by the City Council.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.050 Non-exclusive Basic Life Support Services
The issuance of a license to an ambulance company, under the provisions of this chapter, does not obligate the city to use the services of that ambulance company or to refer any patient or other person to that ambulance company. Except as may be provided in an ambulance agreement entered into pursuant to Section 5.85.040.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.060 Business and Ambulance Permit Required
Every person who operates an ambulance company shall be required to obtain a business license from the city as required under VMC Chapter 5.04, and shall also be required to obtain a Special Ambulance Business License. The city shall not issue such business license unless the applicant has fulfilled all requirements of this chapter and any applicable provisions of state law relating to personnel, equipment and operations including but not limited to Chapter 18.73 RCW and Chapter 246-976 WAC as now or hereafter amended.
Section 5.85.070 Application for business license issuance
A. Application for a license to operate an ambulance service shall be made upon forms provided by the city and shall contain:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;

2. Business name, address and telephone number under which the ambulance company will be operated within the City;

3. The number of ambulances to be placed in service within the city;

4. The number of licensed ambulance attendants to be employed;

5. Attestation that the ambulances to be used in the City are currently licensed as ambulances by the state of Washington;

6. Attestation that the ambulance attendants are currently certified in Clark County and by the state of Washington;

7. Attestation that ambulances and personnel providing ALS are verified trauma providers in Clark County as provided in state law;

8. Certificate of insurance as required herein;

9. The schedule of rates.

B. Prior to issuance of an ambulance license, the application and all pertinent records shall be reviewed to ensure compliance with the license requirements under this chapter, as well as any rules or regulations referenced herein or issued hereunder. Upon written approval of the application by the city manager, or designee, an ambulance license may be issued.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2 -Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.080 Denial, revocation or suspension of business license
The issuance of a business license to operate an ambulance company may be denied, or such license may be suspended or revoked, when the public interest will be served thereby, upon any of the following grounds:

A. The making of a false statement of material fact in the application of the business license or any data or information required to be contained in such application attached thereto; or

B. Failure to comply with any provision of this chapter or any rules or regulations referenced herein or issued pursuant to this chapter.

(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2 -Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.090 Term of license
Each ambulance service license issued by the license director shall be valid for the period of one year. The license year shall be from January 1st to December 31st of each year. The city shall adjust the expiration date of the license to coincide with state of Washington license expiration dates. The license director shall not issue such ambulance license unless the applicant has fulfilled all requirements of this chapter.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2 -Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.100 Annual license fee
At the time the ambulance service license application and any subsequent license renewal application is filed, the applicant shall pay a fee to the city to cover the cost of processing the application. The annual ambulance special license fee shall be $200.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2- Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.110 License not transferrable
No ambulance license issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be transferable or assignable.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.120 Insurance and indemnification
No ambulance operator’s business license shall be issued, nor shall such license be valid after issuance, nor shall any ambulance be operated in the city, unless the operator maintains a policy or policies of insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of activities associated with the operation of the ambulance company. Such insurance shall name the city as an additional insured. The ambulance company shall also indemnify and hold the city harmless from any causes of action arising from the operation of the ambulance company. The minimum scope and limits of coverage shall be set by the city’s risk manager or other person designated by the city manager. Evidence of such insurance shall accompany the application for license and shall be maintained on a continuous basis through subsequent license renewal periods.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.130 Authority of Department
The City shall make all necessary investigations and inspections for enforcement of this chapter.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.140 Rates to be filed
Each ambulance company applying for a business license or renewal of license pursuant to this chapter shall, at the time of filing its application therefor, file with the city its schedule of rates to be charged for services during the license period for which application is made. Such schedule of rates shall be a matter of public record open to public inspection in the city clerk’s office during normal city business hours and such schedule must be adhered to by the licensee throughout the period for which the license is issued.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.150 Response Criteria
The city, or its contracted vendor, will provide all ALS first response emergency medical services (EMS).
Ambulance companies receiving a direct request for ALS first response EMS services shall immediately notify CRESA - 911 communications center so that the city, or its contracted vendor, first response can be initiated. The only exception to this requirement shall be in the event of a call response change during the transport of stable patients from one medical facility to another and routine medical transports and exams.

The 911 system must be activated for all pre-hospital EMS primary examinations and unstable patient care.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.160 Community events
When an ambulance company is contracted to provide emergency medical standby (i.e., 10K Fun Runs, etc.) by community event promoters, the following conditions shall apply:

A. The ambulance company shall notify the fire chief, or his/her designee, in writing 14 days prior to the date of the event, or as soon to the event as reasonably possible, stating the date, time and scope of standby responsibilities.

B. Ambulance companies engaging in standby activities shall notify the CRESA - 911 communications center immediately on all ALS first response EMS calls as required pursuant to VMC 5.85.150.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)

Section 5.85.170 Civil violations
Violation of any provision of this chapter is a civil violation as provided for in Chapter VMC 22.02.070, for which a monetary penalty may be assessed and abatement may be required as provided therein. This section shall be administered by the city manager.
(M-4092, Added, 10/20/2014, Sec 2-Effective 01/01/2015)