

## **BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE**

**Meeting Date:** November 4 and December 2, 2025

### **Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, REPEALING AND REPLACING PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ORDINANCE, INCLUDING THE REALTED RULES AND REGULATIONS; AMENDING PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2 TO RENUMBER RESERVED SECTIONS; AMENDING PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 8.5 TO ADD EMS ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS TO THE CODE ENFORCEMENT CITATION ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### **Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:**

Florida Statute Ch 401.25 authorizes Counties to adopt ordinances that provide standards for issuing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for providing advanced life support services, advanced life support and basic life support transportation services, and air ambulance services. The Palm Beach County EMS Ordinance outlines these requirements in accordance with State guidelines and also provides authority to the County to regulate areas and operation of services provided by COPCN holders. The public purpose of this ordinance is to ensure the provision of high-quality Emergency Medical Services to all residents and visitors within Palm Beach County. The last major EMS Ordinance revision took place in 2017. An EMS Ordinance Revision Committee, formed by the EMS Advisory Council, met numerous times to conduct a comprehensive revision of the ordinance.

A summary of changes in this ordinance includes the following:

Throughout the ordinance language and definitions were added to align with State Statutes.

Language was changed to state that only the County or a Municipality can be a Primary Service Provider and there can only be one Primary Service Provider for any area.

Subscription Service programs will no longer be allowed that involve transportation of 911 callers, but current programs will be grandfathered in and allowed to continue. This change does not impact any private provider from having agreements with organizations for other types of medical transport that do not involve 911 calls and/or transport to an emergency room.

There was a change in language that will allow a Fire Department that does not provide Primary Services to apply to become a Special Secondary Service Provider. There was also a change in the definition of "community" that will allow such a Fire Department to operate as a Special Secondary Service Provider for its entire jurisdiction.

The application requirements for a COPCN in the ordinance were aligned to match with the application packet. There are also changes to the requirements for a Secondary Service Provider that will allow a new company to apply that does not have experience. Any experience or audited financial statements will be considered but not required. However, it is a requirement that the General Manager or an Executive Staff member have 3 years' experience in ALS Transport Services.

Language was added to state that if a Primary Service Provider is unable to respond to their area, then a contiguous Primary Service Provider is required to respond.

Data collection requirements were expanded to include average number of fully staffed units each day, and language was added to improve reporting requirements of response times that enhances oversight and strengthens the auditing process of response times. The

standards for response times were modified for Alert, Urgent, and Routine Scheduled.

The Enforcement Section was changed and clarified. The Administrator will have four options for enforcement; Correction Order; Cease and Desist; Suspension, Revocation, or modification; or Civil Citation. The ordinance outlines the parameters for all options as well as the appeal process. Any revocation or modification of a COPCN will be done at a public hearing by the Board and the decision of the Board is final.

There is a non-refundable application fee (rate set by the Board, by Resolution) of \$500. This has not changed from the previous ordinance.

**Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private/For Profit Businesses:**

- a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: None
- b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: None
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: None

**Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:** There are currently 7 private Secondary Service Providers that could be impacted if more providers are added during open application periods. This is not a change from the previous ordinance.

**Any Additional Information:**