

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION  
JUNE 6, 2017 AGENDA**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Approved By:</b>
<p>An ordinance to amend Little Rock, Rev. Code §5-58 (1988) to permanently allow for Basic Life Support response to non-life threatening emergencies</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">√ <b>Ordinance</b> Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SYNOPSIS</b></p>	<p>A permanent amendment to the Little Rock Ambulance Code to permit tiered responses in non-life threatening emergencies.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FISCAL IMPACT</b></p>	<p>None. Reimbursement from the government and insurance companies tends to be for tiered services anyway.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p>	<p>Approval of the ordinance.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BACKGROUND</b></p>	<p>When MEMS was created in 1981, it was designed to be entirely an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service. Such service requires that two (2) Paramedics be on board the ambulance at the time of a run. Such runs are more expensive than one with two (2) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) called in response. As a result, Federal reimbursement, and some other reimbursements, for ambulance runs will only be based upon Basic Life Support (BLS) as opposed to ALS service.</p>	

**BACKGROUND  
CONTINUED**

Pursuant to Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) regulations, the Board approved Ordinance No. 21,251 on June 7, 2016, to amend LRC § 5-58 to add a subsection (c) to allow for some BLS responses in a non-life threatening emergency pursuant to a pilot program conducted by ADH. The ordinance also mandated that the selected medical oversight for MEMS – the Arkansas Emergency Physicians Foundation (AEPF) – approved of this pilot program.

During the pilot program, MEMS dispatched 2,553 BLS emergency calls. It was necessary in only fourteen (14) of these cases to also dispatch an ALS ambulance. Most of these fourteen (14) ALS calls dealt with behavioral issues or pain issues that mandated the use of certain medications that an EMT is not allowed to administer. *There were no negative patient outcomes.*

The pilot program was successful. ADH is willing to permit MEMS to provide this BLS service. AEPF agrees that such service is appropriate. The MEMS Board of Directors has asked the City to make permanent the amendment approved in 2016 to allow such service in appropriate case. This ordinance accomplishes that amendment.