

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 314909

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE MAY 23 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO
THE AGREEMENT WITH FALCK MOBILE HEALTH, CORP.
TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES.

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, the City of San Diego (City) and Falck Mobile Health (Falck)
entered an Emergency Ambulance Transportation Services Contract (Contract); and

WHEREAS, the Contract requires Falck to provide a monthly median of 900 Advanced
Life Support (ALS) unit hours per day and 108 Basic Life Support (BLS) unit hours per day in the
City's Exclusive Operating Area (EOA); and

WHEREAS, following an approximate six-month transition period, Falck assumed the
City's ambulance transport service on November 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, since assuming the City's services, Falck has had significant ALS staffing
shortages and has not consistently provided ALS staffing to the required level; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Falck has consistently failed to meet required response times and
has incurred approximately \$3,000,000 in response time penalties under the terms of the
Contract; and

WHEREAS, since assuming the City's services in November 2021, Falck has asserted
that Covid-19 is responsible for its ALS paramedic staffing shortage and has continually assured
the City it was taking steps necessary to increase staffing levels; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, Falck's staffing recruitment and retention efforts to improve
staffing levels have proven unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, at the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee Meeting of November 16, 2022, Falck represented to Council Committee Members that it did not anticipate ALS staffing levels to increase in the near future but hoped to maintain the status quo; and

WHEREAS, despite offering a \$50,000 signing bonus to its paramedic workforce in December 2022, Falck remains significantly deficient in ALS staffing; and

WHEREAS, Falck's lack of ALS staffing can directly impact the City's public health and safety, particularly when Falck has no ALS ambulances available for life-threatening emergencies; and

WHEREAS, additionally, San Diego County Emergency Medical Service policies require that two paramedics must be deployed to every ALS incident; and

WHEREAS, due to Falck's insufficient staffing, when Falck is unable to respond to ALS incidents, the Fire-Rescue Department (Fire-Rescue) is required to send additional resources to ensure compliance with San Diego County policy; and

WHEREAS, to date, Fire-Rescue has been able to maintain public safety and manage the City's emergency medical response services despite Falck's staffing deficiencies by responding to calls with available City resources; and

WHEREAS, responding with City resources is not a long-term tenable solution and immediate changes must be made to avoid potential public safety concerns if Falck's ALS staffing continues to drop or ALS needs increase; and

WHEREAS, the need for an immediate solution is magnified by the upcoming summer months approaching, which is the busiest time of the year for incident activity; and

WHEREAS, to ensure sufficient ambulance unit hours to meet public safety and health demands, Fire-Rescue seeks this First Amendment as an immediate, interim remedy to increase ALS unit hours; and

WHEREAS, the proposed First Amendment allows Falck to subcontract with a San Diego County accredited ambulance transport provider, sets forth Falck's minimum staffing requirements and associated penalties, and provides Falck the ability to offset the costs of subcontracting; and

WHEREAS, to further ensure constant availability of ALS unit hour resources, Fire-Rescue also desires to attain authority to manage the required and necessary ALS and BLS unit hours based on the dynamic demands of the City's Emergency Medical Services system; and

WHEREAS, consistent with this objective, Fire-Rescue is seeking provider status under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to assume medical billing and collections; and

WHEREAS, when Fire-Rescue assumes provider status, Fire-Rescue will have the ability to adjust ALS and BLS hours as needed, contract with multiple providers, and allow Fire-Rescue personnel to staff additional ambulances in times of increased demand, ensuring public safety (an EMS system commonly known as the "Alliance Model"); and

WHEREAS, Falck and the City have agreed to implement an Alliance Model EMS system and will bring any further contract amendments for consideration by the Council; and


WHEREAS, the Office of the City Attorney has drafted this resolution based on the information provided by City staff, with the understanding that this information is complete, true, and accurate; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of San Diego, that the Mayor or his designee is authorized to execute a First Amendment to the Contract between the City and Falck,

allowing Falck to subcontract with a San Diego County accredited ambulance transport provider, setting forth minimum staffing requirements and associated penalties, and providing Falck the ability to offset costs of subcontracting, on file with the City Clerk as Document No. RR-

314909

APPROVED: MARA W. ELLIOTT, City Attorney

By 
for: Laura DePoister
Deputy City Attorney


LD:hm
April 24, 2023
Or.Dept: PSE
Doc. No. 3285800

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of MAY 16 2023

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk

By 
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 5/23/23
(date)


TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on MAY 16 2023, by the following vote:

Councilmembers	Yeas	Nays	Not Present	Recused
Joe LaCava	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Whitburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monica Montgomery Steppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marni von Wilpert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kent Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raul A. Campillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vivian Moreno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sean Elo-Rivera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of final passage MAY 23 2023.

(Please note: When a resolution is approved by the Mayor, the date of final passage is the date the approved resolution was returned to the Office of the City Clerk.)

AUTHENTICATED BY:

TODD GLORIA

Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

DIANA J.S. FUENTES

City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By , Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

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