

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- **316243**

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE ~~JUN 05 2025~~

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO APPROVING AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE USER  
FEES FOR PATIENT CHARGES RELATED TO GROUND  
AMBULANCE TRANSPORT.

RECITALS

The Council of the City of San Diego (Council) adopts this Resolution based on the following:

A. In October of 2023, the City assumed emergency ground ambulance transport patient billing and collection (Patient Charges) for all ambulance transport services provided within the City of San Diego (City). The City collects Patient Charges pursuant to its transition to an emergency medical services (EMS) system authorized in Sections 1797.230 and 1797.231 of the California Health and Safety Code, commonly known as the "Alliance Model."

B. On August 9, 2023, Council approved Resolution R-315075, which authorized the City to collect Patient Charges, established the City's Patient Charges, and prescribed the yearly fee escalations through Fiscal Year 2025.

C. The City seeks to adjust the Patient Charges for emergency ground ambulance transport as reflected in the Staff Report, titled "Proposed Fiscal Years 2026-2028 User Fees for Patient Charges Related to Ground Ambulance Transport" (Staff Report), associated with this Resolution. These adjustments include an increase of 7% beginning on July 1, 2025, for Fiscal Year 2026, and successive increases of 5% each subsequent year for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028. The proposed Patient Charge increases are necessary to account for inflationary pressures and contractual increases for Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) unit hour costs paid to the City's contractors, Falck Mobile Health, and American Medical Response

(AMR), for ground ambulance transports under the Alliance Model. Since reimbursements from Medicare and Medi-Cal are fixed, the increased charges will affect insurance providers, who account for approximately 8% of the City's ground ambulance transport patients.

D. All Patient Charges are designated as Category II fees under Council Policy No. 100-05 which provide for partial recovery at an estimated 33% of total reasonably related expenses. The cost recovery methodology is based on the estimated cost of Emergency Operations, EMS, and Communications/Dispatch services associated with EMS responses in the General Fund, as well as proposed costs in the Emergency Medical Services Transport Program Fund associated with the Alliance Model, as compared to the projected annualized revenue from the Patient Charges.

E. Council Policy 100-05 requires changes to user fees in the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds via the Department of Finance's Comprehensive User Fee Study or department-initiated annual changes be first reviewed by the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee and subsequently proposed to the City Council. The San Diego Fire Rescue Department (SDFD) seeks a Council waiver of Council Policy 100-05's requirement that the proposed changes to Patient Charges be first reviewed by the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee.

F. In 2010, California voters approved Proposition 26, which amended Articles XIII A and XIII C of the California Constitution to provide that a levy, charge, or exaction of any kind of fee imposed, increased, or extended by a local government is a tax, requiring two-thirds voter approval, unless an exception applies.

G. Exceptions to Proposition 26 include user fees or government service fees that do not exceed the reasonable costs of providing a service, which includes all reasonable direct and indirect expenses incurred by the City.

H. The proposed Patient Charges do not exceed the City's reasonable cost of providing EMS, including the reasonable direct and indirect expenses incurred by the City related to ground ambulance patient transports. The descriptions of each Patient Charge are outlined in the Staff Report, which includes a Patient Charges Summary Table that articulates percentage of cost recovery for the service provided pursuant to the Patient Charge.

I. The Office of the City Attorney prepared this Resolution based on the information provided by City staff with the understanding that this information is complete and accurate.

#### ACTION ITEMS


Be it resolved by the Council of the City of San Diego:

1. The Council waives the requirement in Council Policy 100-05, Subsection C, which states that user fees in the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds via department-initiated annual changes shall be first reviewed by the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee and subsequently proposed to the City Council.

2. The Council authorizes the following user fee adjustments for Patient Charges for emergency ground ambulance transport: a 7% increase for Fiscal Year 2026, beginning on July 1, 2025; a subsequent 5% increase for Fiscal Year 2027, beginning on July 1, 2026; and a subsequent 5% increase for Fiscal Year 2028, beginning on July 1, 2027.

3. The Council authorizes Department of Finance to amend the fee rate book to reflect the adjusted user fee for Patient Charges for the purpose of partial cost recovery of emergency ground ambulance transport.

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT, City Attorney

By   
Daniel Stuart Orloff  
Deputy City Attorney

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05/02/2025  
05/27/2025 COR. COPY  
Or.Dept: Fire Rescue  
Doc. No. 4066396

I certify that the Council of the City of San Diego adopted this Resolution at a meeting held on  
JUN 03 2025.

DIANA J.S. FUENTES  
City Clerk

By   
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 6/5/25  
(date)

  
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

**JUN 03 2025**

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on \_\_\_\_\_, 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Whitburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry L. Foster III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 **JUN 05 2025**.

(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 *Linda Iruen*, Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

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