

## RESOLUTION NO. 120992

Directing the City Manager to institute procedures that will decrease the time in which ambulances are dispatched to life threatening emergencies.

WHEREAS, seconds can count when ambulances respond to certain life threatening emergencies such as incidents involving cardiac arrests, uncontrolled arterial bleeding and no breathing or ineffective breathing; and

WHEREAS, Code of Ordinances Section 34-372 requires that ambulances have a response time for life threatening emergencies, as measured for a three month running calendar period, of nine minutes or less for 90% of such emergencies City-wide and of nine minutes or less for 85% of such emergencies in the four ambulance response districts; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association, a United States trade association founded with the mission to reduce fires and life hazards that produces standards and codes for usage and adoption by local governments, has created a standard known as NFPA 1710 for the deployment of emergency medical operations and such standard establishes objectives of one minute or less of alarm handling time for 90% of alarms, one minute or less of turnout time for an emergency medical response, four minutes or less travel time for the arrival of a first responder with an automatic external defibrillator (AED) or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident for 90% of such incidents, and eight minutes or less travel time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit at an emergency medical incident for 90% of such incidents if a first responder with an AED or basic life support unit has arrived in four minutes or less travel time; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2012, the City Auditor provided a performance audit of the Fire Department's ambulance response times to the Council; and

WHEREAS, the audit found that on December 13, 2011, the Fire Department ceased its policy of dispatching ambulances on a pre-alert basis which allowed ambulances to be dispatched immediately after the call taker received a request for assistance and verified the address of the incident and instead instituted a policy whereby ambulances were dispatched after the call taker had entered information into the medical priority dispatch system; and

WHEREAS, the audit found that this change in policy resulted in a significant increase in ambulance response times by adding approximately one minute to the dispatch time with median ambulance dispatch time ranging from 1 minute 36 seconds in January of 2012 (the first full month under the new policy) to 1 minute 25 seconds in May of 2012 (the last month covered by the audit); and

WHEREAS, the audit found that Fire Department administrators acknowledged that this change in policy has increased ambulance response times; and

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WHEREAS, until November 14, 2012, the Fire Department had not provided its ambulance response times for the four ambulance response districts created pursuant to Code of Ordinances Section 34-372 since mid-December of 2011 and that these reports which have now been submitted (except for the period from December 14-31, 2011) show that city-wide ambulance response times failed to meet the ordinance requirements all 10 months of 2012 and that response times failed to meet the ordinance requirements in all four ambulance response districts all 10 months, except for October of 2012 in ambulance response district two; and

WHEREAS, the Council is concerned about the increased ambulance response times to life threatening emergencies as indicated by the audit; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Council directs the City Manager to work with the Emergency Medical Services Coordinating Committee and the Fire Department through its labor/management partnership to institute procedures that will decrease the time in which ambulances are dispatched to life threatening medical emergencies. The City Manager is further directed to report back to the Council on such procedures and progress in decreasing ambulance dispatch time within 90 days of the adoption of said Resolution.

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