



Office of the City Manager

PUBLIC HEARING
March 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: David Sprague, Interim Fire Chief
 Subject: Ambulance User Fee Increase

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution: 1) Adjusting the Ambulance User Fee Schedule to match Alameda County’s approved ambulance user fee schedule, made effective July 1, 2022, for the Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, and Piedmont; 2) Making the new Ambulance User Fee Schedule effective April 1, 2023; 3) Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to Contract No. 31900182 with Alameda County for ambulance transport services to incorporate the fee increase; and 4) Rescinding Resolution No. 68,897–N.S., effective April 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency notified the City on July 21, 2022 that they had approved an increase in the Bundled Base Rate User Fee that may be charged by the County’s 911 Ambulance Transport Service Provider. Under the terms of Berkeley’s Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Transport Services Agreement with Alameda County, the City may increase its Bundled Base Rate to \$3,331.40, Mileage to \$75.17, Oxygen to \$248.88, and Treatment/Non-Transport to \$668.13 beginning July 1, 2022. The City will increase its rate effective April 1, 2023 and will not apply the increase retroactively. These adjustments account for the increased cost of ambulance transport, paramedic services, and medical equipment/supplies. Collected ambulance fees are deposited into a General Fund revenue account.

	Existing	Proposed
Base Rate	\$2,181.38	\$3,331.40
Mileage	\$50.71	\$75.17
Oxygen	\$167.91	\$248.88
Treatment / Non-Transport *	\$450.77	\$668.13

**For patients who receive a medical intervention, such as intravenous medication administration, and subsequently refuse transport.*

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Under the terms of the Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Transport Services Agreement, Alameda County Board of Supervisors is responsible for setting and approving any fees that are applicable to all providers. The increases are either cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) or base rate adjustments. For the City of Berkeley, the last rate increase was approved by the City Council on May 14, 2019 (Resolution No. 68,897–N.S.); and the rate increase was made effective July 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND

The Alameda County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is responsible for the procurement of emergency ambulance services for the local EMS system. The Berkeley Fire Department has an agreement with Alameda County to be the emergency transport provider for Berkeley since 1977. Albany, Piedmont, Alameda City, and Falck serve as the ambulance transport providers for other parts of Alameda County. Under the current agreement, all transport providers, including Berkeley, are in the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District. Since 1986, the Berkeley Fire Department has provided ambulance transport service at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) or paramedic level.

Under the terms of the Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Transport Services Agreement, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is responsible for setting and approving any fees that are applicable to all agencies. The increases are either COLA or base rate adjustments.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the action requested in this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Berkeley Fire Department is seeking Council approval to increase the base rate for ambulance user fees to match those approved by Alameda County and made effective on July 1, 2022. Periodic rate increases help to recoup increasing costs incurred for providing ambulance services.

Government Code Section 6062(a) dictates the manner of publication for fee increase public hearings.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Continue with the existing Ambulance User Fee Schedule which was approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and made effective September 1, 2019.

Ambulance User Fee Increase

PUBLIC HEARING
March 14, 2023

CONTACT PERSON

Dave McPartland, EMS Assistant Fire Chief, (510) 981-3473

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Public Hearing Notice

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AMBULANCE USER FEE ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda and the City of Berkeley are in an Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Transport Services Agreement dated July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors sets the rates for emergency ambulance transport; and

WHEREAS, the revenue collected will be deposited into General Fund revenue account 010-6405-341-7900; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors established and approved a new Contractor's User Fee schedule for ambulance transport providers. The rates were made effective July 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the new Ambulance User Fee Schedule is adopted in accordance with the rates established by the County of Alameda, effective July 1, 2022, as follows:

	User Fee Schedule
Base Rate	\$3,331.40
Mileage	\$75.17
Oxygen	\$248.88
Treatment / Non-Transport	\$668.13

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new Ambulance User Fee Schedule shall be effective April 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 31900182 with Alameda County for ambulance transport services to incorporate the fee increase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 68,897-N.S. is rescinded, effective April 1, 2023.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL
AMBULANCE USER FEE ADJUSTMENT**

The public may participate in this hearing by remote video or in-person.

Notice is hereby given by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that a public hearing will be conducted by said city council of the City of Berkeley at which time and place all persons may attend and be heard upon the following:

The Fire Department is proposing to increase the Ambulance User Fee rates to match the ambulance transport provider fees set forth and approved by the County of Alameda. Collected ambulance fees are deposited into a General Fund revenue account.

The County of Alameda has established and approved a new base rate Contractor's User Fee schedule for ambulance transport providers effective July 1, 2022. The City of Berkeley fee increase would be effective April 1, 2023. For the City of Berkeley, the last rate increase was approved by the City Council on May 14, 2019 (Resolution No. 68,897–N.S.); and the rate increase was made effective July 1, 2019.

	Existing	Proposed
Base Rate	\$2,181.38	\$3,331.40
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**For patients who receive a medical intervention, such as intravenous medication administration, and subsequently refuse transport.*

The hearing will be held on March 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the School District Board Room, 1231 Addison Street, Berkeley CA 94702.

For further information, please contact David McPartland, EMS Assistant Chief, at (510) 981-3473.

A copy of the staff report for this hearing will be available on the City's website at www.berkeleyca.gov as of **March 2, 2023**. Once posted, the agenda for this meeting will include a link for public participation using Zoom video technology, as well as any health and safety requirements for in-person attendance.

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, or e-mailed to council@cityofberkeley.info in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet.

Communications to the Berkeley City Council are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the City Clerk. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk at 981-6900 or clerk@cityofberkeley.info for further information.

If you challenge the above in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Berkeley at, or prior to, the public hearing. Background information concerning this proposal will be available at the City Clerk Department and posted on the City of Berkeley webpage at least 10 days prior to the public hearing.

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I hereby certify that the Notice for this Public Hearing of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City’s website, on March 2, 2023.

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Mark Numainville, City Clerk