

**CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY
NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE NO. 1608 (2017)

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION” OF THE
REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY ESTABLISHING
“SEA ISLE CITY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION”**

WHEREAS, the City of Sea Isle City (hereinafter the “City”) provides basic life support ambulance services through the Sea Isle Ambulance Corps., Inc. (Henceforth “Volunteer Squad”). The Volunteer Squad has been the sole provider of emergency medical and emergency rescue services in the City of Sea Isle City since Volunteer Squad incorporation on September 4, 1956; and

WHEREAS, the City has historically worked with the Volunteer Squad to assist in maintaining its viability as an emergency medical and emergency rescue services provider; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer Squad in more recent years has suffered from a lack of volunteers qualified and physically able to provide the emergency medical and emergency rescue services consistently in the City. The City established an emergency stipend program intended to bolster the Volunteer Squad on a short-term basis allowing for either a recruiting program and infusion of volunteers into the Volunteer Squad or a cooperative phase in of City personnel providing emergency medical and emergency rescue services; and

WHEREAS, at the present time the Volunteer Squad is unable to provide emergency medical and emergency rescue services without the paid stipend program of the City; and

WHEREAS, by resolution the City entered into a long-term lease with the Volunteer Squad by resolution number 470 of 2007 adopted May 15, 2007. The Lease provides by its own terms that in the event the Volunteer Squad is not able to provide volunteer ambulance services to the City, the lease may terminate, and

WHEREAS, the City finds it to be in the best long-term interests of the citizens, residents, visitors, and taxpayers of the City for the City to make reliable emergency medical service functions and emergency rescue service functions one for which the City has ultimate responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the City finds and declares that it is in the interest of health, safety, and welfare to create a Division of emergency medical services in the Department of Police in order to better coordinate and manage emergency medical services within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City looks forward to a cooperative phase in of City personnel providing emergency medical and emergency rescue services, supplemented to the extent possible by the Volunteer Squad and to the continued other services and functions performed by the Volunteer Squad in the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Sea Isle City, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION I. Chapter 2 Section 9E of the Revised General Ordinances of the City of Sea Isle City, entitled “Sea Isle City Emergency Medical Services Division” is hereby added as follows:

ADDED SECTION:

2-9E SEA ISLE CITY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

2-9E1 Establishment of the Sea Isle City Emergency Medical Services Division.

There is hereby established a Sea Isle City Emergency Medical Services Division (hereinafter Sea Isle City EMS) within the Department of Police to administer and coordinate the emergency medical transport services provided by the City; to be supplemented by the City's volunteer rescue squad. The City of Sea Isle City recognizes Sea Isle Ambulance Corps., Inc. for its continued efforts to provide exceptional care and services to the residents and visitors of the City.

2-9E2 Duties of the Division and Compliance.

Sea Isle City EMS is to provide efficient, professional and expedient emergency medical care and transportation.

The Sea Isle City EMS Division shall be in compliance with N.J.A.C. 8:40-1.1 et seq.

In addition to the emergency medical services herein authorized, the Division may provide secondary non-emergency transport based on criteria established by the Division.

2-9E3 Department Officials

The Director of the Department of Police shall serve as head of the Sea Isle City EMS Division. EMS Division functions shall be administered and staff supervised by the Director of Department of Police and/or his/her designee.

2-9E4 Policies and Procedures

The Sea Isle City EMS Division is governed by all of the policies and procedures of the City of Sea Isle City. The Director of Department of Police and/or his/her designee shall develop supplemental policies and procedures tailored to the specific protocols governing the Division.

2-9E5 Personnel.

The Sea Isle City EMS Division shall be staffed by certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who hold a valid New Jersey driver's license and shall be employees of the City. The Division shall consist of sufficient full time employees and sufficient part time employees to ensure appropriate staffing of EMS Division. One of the full time employees shall be designated to coordinate scheduling and act as liaison to the Director of the Department of police from the EMS Division. There shall be seasonal employees as determined from time to time by the Administrator.

2-9E6 Qualifications for employees.

No person shall be eligible to become an employee of the Emergency Medical Service Division unless such person possesses and provides proof of the following qualifications:

- A. All applicants for employment shall be between the age of eighteen (18) and the state maximum permitted age.
- B. Be physically fit to perform the duties of an emergency medical technician. The applicant shall submit to a medical evaluation by a licensed physician the costs of which will be borne by the Employee.
- C. Prior to employment, provide the City with a criminal background check and have no prior convictions for any offense or crime.
- D. Be subject to a motor vehicle background check with no prior record of reckless driving, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol or any other serious moving violation.
- E. Be subject to pre-employment and random drug testing. The position of emergency medical technician is considered a safety sensitive position and shall be subject to the City policies and procedures for safety sensitive position.
- F. Be a certified emergency medical technician of the State of New Jersey with at least two years experience as an emergency medical technician. Any lapse in certification will be cause for immediate suspension of duties. Reinstatement will only occur upon certification is reinstated.
- G. Possess a valid New Jersey driver's license and maintain same during course of employment.

2-9E7 Chain of Command.

The Director of the Department of Police or designee shall be responsible for the overall operation of the Division, including, but is not limited to, administration of the state licensing, creation and maintenance of standard operating procedures and third party billing issues.

2-9E8 Compensation

The staff of the Sea Isle City EMS Division shall receive such compensation as is provided for by salary ordinance covering their titles adopted by the City of Sea Isle.

2-9E9 No Denial of Service

All persons needing emergency or rescue services within the City of Sea Isle City shall be serviced, to the extent that such services are available, without discrimination on any basis, and without respect to residency, ability to pay, or any other factor. No person located within the City of Sea Isle City at the time that either emergency medical or rescue services are needed shall be denied available service when such services are available.

2-9E10 No Delay of Service

There shall be no delay in providing available service identified in this ordinance due to any third party billing, prior interaction between the person needing emergency medical or rescue services and the billing companies or the City.

2-9E11 Maintenance of Records.

Personnel of the Division of EMS shall maintain accurate records of all EMS requests for service, service calls and services provided. Said records shall include pertinent information about the general

nature of the call and shall identify the complete name, mailing address, location and telephone numbers of all persons requesting and receiving EMS services as well as all pertinent and available insurance information.

2-9E12 Fees for Emergency Medical Services.

The fee schedule for emergency medical services transport by the City of Sea Isle is as follows:

- A. Base Rate: The base rate is \$800 per transport. This rate includes the dispatch of two EMTs; services of basic life support; and emergency ambulance transportation to the following health care facilities:
 - Cape Regional Medical Center, Cape May Court House, NJ
 - Shore Medical Center, Somers Point, NJ
- B. Mileage charge: A mileage charge of \$14 per mile shall be added to the base rate for any facility further than those listed in A herein
- C. Additional charges: (1) Oxygen - \$75.00; (2) Collars - \$35.00; (3) AED - \$95.00; EpiPen/Narcan -\$150.00; (4) Non-emergency stretcher transport - \$500.00.

2-9E13 Insurance Only Billing.

- A. The fees for emergency medical services set forth herein notwithstanding, when a Sea Isle ambulance responds to an emergency call the City shall engage in insurance only billing, whereby the City will accept as payment only what is paid by the patient's health insurance plan, applicable automobile insurance policy, or Medicare/Medicaid, and shall not bill for any deductibles, co-pays or other balance due.
- B. The Division may utilize other agencies or providers for services, such as but not limited to, advanced life support services. Those agencies/providers charge in accordance with their policies and are not subject to insurance only billing, whether billed through the Division or independently to the patient.
- C. The failure of the patient to cooperate in providing necessary information, processing insurance forms, or otherwise refusing to assist the Division in collecting fees owed shall subject the patient to liability to the City for such services.
- D. The City may contract with a professional medical billing service for the collection of payment for services rendered by the Division. Said bill shall be issued to the insurance company for the person served or directly to the person served if there is a failure to cooperate

SECTION II. Chapter 2 Section 9.2 of the Revised General Ordinances of the City of Sea Isle City, entitled "Composition and Duties of Department" is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

DELETED SECTION:

2-9.2 Composition and Duties of Department.

The Department of Police shall consist of the Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management, Lifeguard Patrol, Animal Control, found in Chapter V, and the Sea Isle City Volunteer Fire Company, and shall execute control over these organizations.

REPLACEMENT SECTION:

2-9.2 Composition and Duties of Department.

The Department of Police shall consist of the Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management, Lifeguard Patrol, Animal Control, found in Chapter V, the Sea Isle City Volunteer Fire Company, and the Division of Emergency Medical Services and shall execute control over these organizations.

SECTION II. Severability. If for any reason any section of this Ordinance shall be declared illegal by any Court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining section of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect, notwithstanding.

SECTION III. Repealer. Any Ordinance or provision thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION IV. Publication. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

William Kehner, Council President

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing ordinance was duly passed by the City Council of the City of Sea Isle City, New Jersey on first reading at the regular meeting of said Council held on the 14th day of March, 2017 and will be taken up for second reading, public hearing and final passage at the regular meeting of said Council to be held on the 11th day of April, 2017, in the Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 233 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Sea Isle City, New Jersey at 10:00 a.m.

Cindy L. Griffith, Municipal Clerk