

**city OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2024

PREPARED BY: Daniel Hurtado, Public Safety Analyst

REQUEST: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND UPDATING THE CITY'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BILLING PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE AND RELATED WRITE-OFF POLICY

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING AND UPDATING THE CITY'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BILLING PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE AND RELATED WRITE-OFF POLICY."

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On January 11, 2018, the City of Palm Desert City Council approved and passed Resolution No. 2018-03, which approved the City's Emergency Medical Services Billing Program Fee Schedule and Related Write-Off Policy. The purpose of this policy is to develop cost recovery procedures related to the costs incurred by the City for the provision of emergency medical services to residents who reside both inside and outside City limits.

On October 8, 2023, the Governor signed AB 716 into law, which requires that persons requiring emergency medical services only be responsible for the in-network cost-sharing amount required by their health plan, and uninsured persons only be charged the Medi-Cal or Medicare rate for the service. AB 716 protects persons from having unpaid emergency medical service bills sent to collections resulting in an adverse impact on their credit history for the first twelve (12) months after the first billing notice.

Approving this amendment and update to the City's policy explicitly stating that no outstanding balances will be forwarded to any collections agency until one (1) year after the first billing notice is necessary to resolve any ambiguity as to the City policy's compliance with the requirements outlined in AB 716.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact for approving the resolution. This will ensure the City policy's compliance with the requirements outlined in AB 716.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution
