

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-\_\_\_\_\_

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

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2018, the City of Palm Desert ("City") 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the City's Emergency Medical Services Billing Program Fee Schedule and Related Write-Off Policy has been found to be in compliance with the requirements set forth in AB 716; and

WHEREAS, an 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 set forth in AB 716.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of Recitals. The City Council finds and determines that the recitals of this Resolution are true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this Resolution as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. Emergency Medical Services Billing Program Fee Schedule and Related Write-Off Policy. The City Council hereby approves and adopts the updated Emergency Medical Services Billing Program Fee Schedule and Related Write-Off Policy, as attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section or provision of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, or contravened by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining sections and/or provisions of this Resolution shall remain valid. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Resolution, and each section or provision thereof, regardless of the fact that any one or more section(s) or provision(s) may be declared invalid or unconstitutional or contravened via legislation.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, at its regular meeting held on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KARINA QUINTANILLA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY J. MEJIA, CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2024-\_\_ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Desert on March 14, 2024, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:
- RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY J. MEJIA  
CITY CLERK

## Exhibit "A"

## Emergency Medical Services Billing Program Fee Schedule and Related Write-Off Policy

**Fee Schedule**

<b>Fee Description</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>
Ambulance Transportation	\$1,450.00
Ambulance Mileage Rate	\$29.00 per mile
Non-Transport Fee	\$425.00
Oxygen	\$132.00
Extra Attendant	\$155.00
Wait Time — per $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	\$82.20
First Responder/Pre-Stabilization	\$400.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Disposable Supplies	\$303.75
Advanced Life Support (ALS) Disposable Supplies	\$382.00
Twelve (12) Lead EKG	\$285.00
Three (3) Lead EKG	\$156.48

**Write-Off Policy**

*Patients that reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Indian Wells (Cove Communities) shall not be balanced billed. The City accepts insurance payments as payments in full. All patients will receive a maximum of four (4) insurance information request notices, should insurance not be provided at the time of service. For those patients that reside outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the Cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage and Indian Wells, the City's contracted EMS/ambulance billing company will send one balance bill as required under law. Accounts that have had no activity for 90 days will be deemed uncollectable at that time and will be written off. **Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the City deems it necessary to forward any outstanding balances to a collections agency, said balance shall not be forwarded to any collections agency until one (1) year after the first billing notice.** Any patient without insurance is deemed eligible for a financial hardship waiver; the City will write the accounts off. All other billing aspects shall comply with state and federal law.*