

ORDINANCE NO. 31-20

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Richland amending Richland Municipal Code Section 13.06.330 related to billing for ambulance transport.

WHEREAS, the City has need, from time to time, to update the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to eliminate ambiguities; and

WHEREAS, when Ordinance No. 12-12 was approved on April 17, 2012, the Richland City Council intended to increase the ambulance base transport fee for Richland residents from \$608 to \$660, to increase the non-resident ambulance base transport fee from \$912 to \$990, and to decrease the mileage rate from \$10.10 per mile to \$10.00 per mile; and

WHEREAS, the rates referenced in Ordinance No. 12-12 have been consistently charged by the City's ambulance utility since adoption of Ordinance No. 12-12; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 12-12 failed to codify these rates in Title 13 of the Richland Municipal Code, thereby requiring a housekeeping amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Section 13.06.330, entitled Billing for ambulance transports, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 28-06, and last amended by Ordinance No. 12-12, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**13.06.330 Billing for ambulance transports.**

A. Each person who is transported by the city's EMS program shall be billed by the city at a rate of \$660, ~~the rates established in this chapter~~, provided the patient is a city resident or is employed at (and transported from) a place of business within the city and the patient:

1. Supplies the city with all requested information and documentation including, but not limited to, insurance information and medical records relative to billing for the ambulance service; and

2. Assigns to the city the patient's right to receive payment from all applicable third-party payers.

B. A patient who is not a city resident and is not employed at and transported from a place of business within the city shall be subject to a 50 percent surcharge on such transport services.

C. A mileage rate of \$10.00 per mile will also be charged, regardless of resident or non-resident status.

**CD.** Reciprocity. The ambulance service shall be provided within the city's ambulance response and mutual aid areas at no additional cost to any resident of the cities of Pasco and Kennewick ~~that~~ who resides:

1. In a household that pays a charge similar to the utility charge; and
2. In a city that provides medical and ambulance services within its ambulance response and mutual aid areas to Richland residents at no additional cost.

**DE.** The city shall have reciprocity with each of these cities unless they cease to have an ambulance utility or withdraw from the reciprocal agreement.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

Section 3. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 4. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

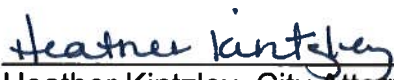
PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

  
Ryan Lukson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

Date Published: October 11, 2020