

Item Title: Public Hearing and Approval of Request from Priority Care Ambulance INC., for a Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchise Renewal (First Reading)

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Holds a Public Hearing on the request from Priority Care Ambulance INC., for a Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchise Renewal; and**
- 2. Grants a non-emergency ambulance franchise to Priority Care Ambulance INC. for the operation of a medical transportation service in Wake County effective January 25, 2021 for a five-year period; and**
- 3. Instructs County staff to continue receiving public comments on this topic until January 5 at 5:00pm, and to place this item on the Consent agenda of the next Board meeting.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: Per County Ordinance 111.04 the Board of County Commissioners may grant a Non-emergency Franchise upon finding that the public will be served by granting the applicant a franchise, consistent with the policy set forth in 111.01.

Background: Private vendors offer non-emergency ambulance transports to patients and medical facilities. This involves transporting patients to and from medical facilities or the patient's home. These services involve no emergency care.

Priority Care Ambulance INC. of Raleigh, North Carolina, is requesting the issuance of an ambulance franchise for operation of a non-emergency medical transport service pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 111 of the Wake County Code of Ordinances.

EMS staff have reviewed Priority Care Ambulance INC.'s application for a non-emergency franchise and determined that Priority Care's representations are consistent with the requirements of Wake County's ambulance franchise ordinance. Staff recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the franchise request.

Board Goal: This action supports routine County operations.

Fiscal Impact: Award of a non-emergency ambulance franchise represents permission to deliver non-emergency ambulance transportation services and does not involve county subsidies or payments. The

County will receive \$1,680 for a one-time application fee to be deposited in the County's General Fund.

Additional Information:

There are currently four franchised non-emergency ambulance providers in Wake County including Priority Care Ambulance Inc.

Because a franchise ordinance requires two readings, if this request is approved by the Board of Commissioners on January 4, 2021, a second reading and approval will be required at the Board's January 19, 2021 meeting.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Ordinance Granting Franchise Renewal to Priority Care Ambulance INC.
3. Wake County, NC Code of Ordinances Chapter 111: Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Services
4. Priority Care Ambulance Schedule of Fees