

RESOLUTION NO. 2618

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR URGENT AMBULANCE STAFFING MODEL REFORM IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY

THE TROUTDALE CITY COUNCIL FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the delivery of public safety services, fire and emergency medical services and law enforcement services, is a core responsibility of government.
2. Multnomah County, under ORS 682.062, is mandated to develop Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) plans. These plans outline the provision and coordination of ambulance services within county jurisdictions, including staffing provisions.
3. The County has never meaningfully sought input from the City on how this important government function should operate.
4. Multnomah County's Ambulance Service Plan (ASP), first implemented in 1994, designated the entire county as a unified ambulance service area. It mandated that all ambulances dispatched for Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls be staffed with two Paramedics and established a policy that ambulances shall reach ALS emergencies within 8 minutes 90% of the time.
5. There is a significant, and compelling, body of evidence that, within the United States system of emergency medical response, there is no meaningful outcome difference for patients whether an ambulance with two Paramedics vs. an ambulance with one paramedic and one emergency medical technician (EMT) responds.
6. In 2016, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners updated County Code Chapter 21, Section 406, granting exclusive authority over ambulance staffing, including any changes, to the EMS Medical Director, with the Multnomah County Chair as the sole individual empowered to demand action from department leadership, including the EMS Medical Director, in her capacity as the County's Chief Hiring Officer.
7. A drastic rise in medical 9-1-1 calls over recent years has placed an undue and extreme burden on medical first responders in Multnomah County. Major structural flaws in Multnomah County's emergency medical response staffing system have been revealed, resulting in a critical ambulance shortage leading to unprecedented incidents of Level Zero (no ambulances available to respond to emergencies) and delayed ambulance response times, putting the lives of the Troutdale community members at risk.

8. The increase in ALS calls and stagnation of any staffing model changes has had a profound negative impact on partner first responder agencies and workforce, particularly Gresham Fire Department, our contracted fire and emergency responder.
9. A staffing model of one Paramedic and one EMT (the “1:1” model) has become the standard across the nation to respond to virtually all medical emergencies, and a proposal exists from Multnomah County’s ambulance provider, American Medical Rescue (AMR), to pilot this model. Sadly, the County EMS Medical Director and the County Chair have refused to change the staffing policy despite substantial evidence that there would be no adverse impact on those needing care.
10. Our fire and emergency services provider, the Gresham Fire Department, and the Gresham City Council, support this change and have so informed the County.
11. The City Council implores Multnomah County EMS Officer and Chair to pilot this 1:1 staffing model. The status of transport ambulances in the City of Troutdale is critically insufficient, and a one EMT and one Paramedic model will make a significant improvement in the number of ambulances available to serve the Troutdale community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TROUTDALE:

Section 1. The City Council calls on the Multnomah County Chair to exercise her authority to direct the EMS Medical Director to immediately order a change in ambulance staffing to allow for this 1:1 staffing model pilot program to combat the critical lack of ambulances available to respond to emergencies in the City of Troutdale.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 0



Randy Lauer, Mayor

Date: March 13, 2024



Sarah Skroch, City Recorder

Adopted: March 12, 2024