

PARAMOUNT AMBULANCE

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Item for City Council Agenda:

REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF POLICY REGARDING USE OF EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION (OPTICOM) FOR AREA AMBULANCE SERVICES

Paramount EMS is a state licensed ambulance service that provides emergency transportation for patients from locations within the city of Dubuque to Dubuque hospitals on a daily basis.

As part of our commitment to safety and patient care, Paramount EMS respectfully requests that the new city policy on "Use of Emergency Traffic Signal (Opticom) for Area Ambulance Services," recently established by the city of Dubuque Fire Department, be amended to include "Privately Owned" emergency services, such as Paramount EMS (copy of current policy is attached).

It may have been an oversight, but the new policy from the Dubuque Fire Department excludes Paramount EMS or any other private for profit ambulance service from using the electronic preemptive services in the city of Dubuque. Opticom allows safer and quicker transportation of patients who are in critical need of emergency transportation to local medical facilities.

Paramount Ambulance has a mutual aid agreement with the city of Dubuque, as part of the Dubuque County EMS Association. Paramount has access to the Opticom traffic signal preemption system in other municipalities. Paramount is able to satisfy all requirements of the Dubuque Fire Department policy regarding emergency traffic signal preemption.

The exclusion of "For Profit" emergency medical services from participating in the traffic signal preemption (Opticom) system increases the risk to citizens of the city of Dubuque from enjoying the benefits of improved travel times and safer transportation of critical care patients, which will lead to better patient outcomes. Access to the preemption system would improve safety for both the responding emergency vehicles as well as other roadway users by giving clarity to the right of way. The preemption system is a useful tool in increasing public safety.

We request that the City Council direct the fire chief of the city of Dubuque to modify its policy for emergency traffic signal preemption (Opticom) for area ambulance services to include for profit emergency service entities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Paramount EMS

By _____



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