

BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE
Pursuant to Section 125.66(3), Florida Statutes

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1 (EMS ORDINANCE); AMENDING SECTION 13-22 (APPLICATION FOR COPCN) RELATING TO A PROCESS TO ALLOW AN ADDITIONAL SECONDARY PROVIDER APPLICATION PERIOD AND COPCNS, INCLUDING UPDATING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:

The proposed amendment to the EMS Ordinance establishes a process that will allow an additional Secondary Provider COPCN application period, and the issuance of additional Secondary Provider COPCNs, prior to the end of the regular six (6) year term that is outlined in the EMS Ordinance, if there is a public safety need to add additional Secondary Providers. Additionally, there is additional information required to be submitted as part of the Secondary Provider COPCN application. These revisions to the EMS Ordinance will serve the public health, safety and welfare of Palm Beach County.

A summary of changes include the following:

A new Subsection "a. Additional Secondary Providers" is added to Subsection 13-22(a)(1) of the EMS Ordinance. After completion of the third-year of the six-year term of the Secondary Provider COPCNs issued, the Administrator may conduct a review and determine if there is a public safety need for any additional Secondary Providers. The Administrator's review may include, but is not limited to, population growth, response times, user feedback, and vehicle and staff inspections. The Administrator will provide the Board with a report of the Administrator's review and analysis.

If the Board of County Commissioners (Board), in its reasonable discretion, determines there is a public safety need for any additional Secondary Providers, then the Board may direct the Administrator to open an additional application period to accept and process Secondary Provider COPCN applications. In making this determination, the Board will consider the Administrator's report and any other information provided to the Board. This application period shall be in addition to the regular application period that opens every six years pursuant to the timelines set out in Subsections (a)(2) and (3); and the timelines in Subsections (a)(2) and (3) shall not apply to this additional application period for additional Secondary Providers.

Public notice of such additional application period shall be given by the Administrator. This notice shall state that the Board will be accepting applications for Secondary Provider COPCNs for all areas of operation within the County; and will set forth the date range during which applications will be accepted. The time period for accepting and processing applications, and any related timelines, will be established by the Administrator based upon the surrounding circumstances. If the Administrator determines, in its reasonable discretion, that the applications received do not meet the public safety needs of the County, the Administrator may cancel the application process and/or reopen an additional application period(s).

In addition to the other information required to be included in an application pursuant to this Division, applications must include all the following information:

- The proposed start date of Secondary Provider services by applicant.
- Copy of profile sheet(s) relating to current Florida State license(s), if any, or equivalent information sheet(s) listing all of the applicant's vehicles.
- The minimum number of ALS Units, ALS Vehicles, and BLS Transfer Units that applicant will have dedicated, operationally available, and fully staffed in accordance with Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, Chapter 64J-1, FAC, and any other applicable laws, to provide Secondary Provider services in Palm Beach County.
- A list of the names of personnel, and their EMS certifications, certification numbers and expiration dates, that the applicant will dedicate to provide Secondary Provider services in Palm Beach County. Personnel must meet all certification and training requirements in Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, Chapter 64J-1, FAC, and any other applicable laws.
- Identify whether or not the applicant has an automatic vehicle locator (AVL) system that would allow the Administrator and the requesting facility to track a responding vehicle's location, and provide details about any such AVL system and its capabilities.

The Board shall schedule a public hearing to consider whether to grant or deny any Secondary Provider applications submitted during an application period that is opened pursuant to this Subsection (a)(1)a.

Any Secondary Provider COPCNs issued pursuant to an application period provided for under this Subsection (a)(1)a, shall be in addition to the Secondary Provider COPCNs issued pursuant to the regular application period that opens every six years pursuant to the timelines set out in Subsections (a)(2) and (3). Any such additional Secondary Provider COPCNs shall indicate the start date of services, and shall expire upon the same expiration date as the Secondary Provider COPCNs that were issued pursuant to the regular six year application process.

All provisions and procedures of this Division, including but not limited to those relating to COPCN applications and the consideration and issuance of COPCNs, shall apply, except to the extent they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Subsection (a)(1)a.

Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private/For Profit Businesses:

- a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: None
- b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: None
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: None

Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted: The three current Secondary Provider COPCN certificate holders could be impacted operationally by potentially experiencing a reduction in the requested number of transports to their companies if other companies are provided a Secondary Provider COPCN by this additional application period.

Any Additional Information: None