

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-527  
DECEMBER 16, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
REPEAL OF LOCAL AMBULANCE INSPECTION REGULATIONS	RESOLUTION ◆ ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JIM GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

Staff has prepared an ordinance amendment to Chapter 19 which would repeal the requirement that private and fire department ambulances be inspected semiannually by the Neighborhood Health and Zoning Division. The Iowa Department of Public Health has recently implemented regulations to perform this function; retention of the City's inspection program would be duplicative and an unnecessary burden on the ambulance services.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Approximately \$700 in annual ambulance agency and vehicle licensing revenues will be lost if the ordinance is repealed.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval.

**BACKGROUND —**

The City's ambulance regulations date back to 1969, at which time no state regulations were in place. The operation of a series of marginal private ambulance services in the city prompted the enactment of a local ordinance to regulate their activities, as well as to establish minimum qualifications for ambulance personnel.

Standards established by the former Environmental Health Division stipulated equipment and supplies which were to be carried in an ambulance, and minimum vehicle safety standards for Basic Care Level ambulance services.

With the recent implementation of state regulations and inspection procedures which set standards for Basic Care Level ambulance equipment and personnel, the continued regulation by the City would represent an unnecessary duplication of effort and expense to the ambulance services as well as to inspection personnel. The staff time devoted to the semiannual inspections and associated paperwork will be redirected to beautification issues.

The public should see no diminution in the quality of public or private local ambulance services.