

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	December 18, 2017
	Agenda Item No.	49
	Roll Call No.	<u>17-2173</u>
	Communication No.	<u>17-867</u>
	Submitted by:	Bob Fagen, Finance Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Adopt the ordinance that adds the Final Determination of Fees section to the Des Moines Municipal Code with waiver of the second and final reading requested.

SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approval of an administrative process that allows a patient receiving emergency ambulance services from the City to seek an informal or a formal administrative hearing to determine the amount of the debt. The informal hearings will be heard by the Finance Department; the formal hearings will be before the City Hearing Officer appointed by the Clerk.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Estimate of \$100,000 - \$150,000

Funding Source: Estimate increase in collections of ambulance service fees that will be able to be submitted to the Des Moines Offset Program to offset the debt against money owed by the State of Iowa to the Patient.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Due to a change in Iowa Administrative Code, made by the Department of Administrative Services, a City seeking to offset a debt against state income tax refunds or other reimbursements of the state, must first have the amount of the debt determined in an administrative hearing or court proceeding.
- If the patient chooses an informal hearing, he or she may then ask for a formal hearing following the informal one.
- A formal hearing may be appealed to Iowa district court.
- Any debt determined by the process after exhausting the possible appeals or not pursuing additional appeals may be submitted to the Des Moines Offset Program to offset the debt against money owed by the State of Iowa to the patient.
- This ordinance is being passed in coordination with changes to the collection forms that will be used by Digitech, the City's new ambulance billing service.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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