



June 12, 2024

BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS  
CRIS LIBAN, PRESIDENT  
SELIKA TALBOTT, VICE PRESIDENT  
DOUGLAS TOHOM  
VIGGEN DAVIDIAN  
ERIN PAK  
RAYMOND REGALADO

**RE: Item #10 Recommendations Re: 2024-25 Private Ambulance Service Rate Adjustment and Adoption of New Methodology for Future Adjustments**

Dear Commissioners:

Mission Community Hospital operates a 145-bed acute care hospital in Panorama City. We provide services to a vastly underserved population. For the reasons detailed below, I am writing to you today requesting a delay of approval of this item to allow time for all affected stakeholders to participate in the discussion. The significant increase proposed comes at a difficult time for us, as we continue to recover and deal with the economic and work force challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

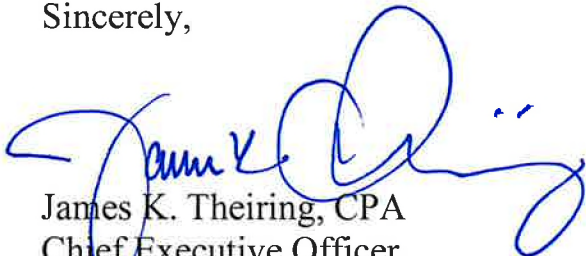
The non-emergency transport of our patients between health facilities is an integral part of the patient continuum of care and often one that can be challenging depending on the needs of patients.

- This is the second time, in less than three (3) years, that LA DOT has proposed a significant increase of ambulance rates without including hospitals or other stakeholders in the discussion and allowed the private ambulance companies to control the conversation.
- This time, LA DOT was clearly aware of the hospitals desire to be a part of the conversation and yet they made their recommendations without including all of the stakeholders in the discussion.

- In 2022, they implemented an over 30% increase and the reasoning was that there had been no increase in many years, however in 2024 they are again suggesting an over 30% increase so that is over 60% in just the past two (2) years.
- In 2022, it was recommended that they follow the County model of increase whereby the County sets a maximum rate and then hospitals and private ambulance companies are free to negotiate actual rates, as market conditions allow. In the current proposal, the City is setting a rate with no ability to negotiate.
- Furthermore, the ambulance companies actually admit that they make up the revenue in the City of LA that they are losing elsewhere in LA County, which is simply unfair to the hospitals and the patients in the City.
- Finally, the managed care plans are not at the table or their ambulance brokers who negotiate the contracts with ambulance companies and only pay the MediCal reimbursement rate, which again means that those patients with no coverage or private coverage are getting hit with the higher costs (which we know contributes to the medical debt issues)

On behalf of the staff at Mission Community Hospital and the patients we serve in the City of Los Angeles, I ask that you support our request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James K. Theiring, CPA  
Chief Executive Officer  
(818) 904-3685