TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL ORDINANCE 509-23

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RULES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR PATIENT CARE FACILITIES AND CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 19 IN THE TOWNSHIP CODE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To preserve and enhance the availability of emergency medical services for legitimate medical emergency situations in the Township by regulating the use of emergency medical services in certain nonemergency situations.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill in the County of Morris, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby created a new Chapter 19 in the Township Code entitled "Emergency Medical Services for Patient Care Facilities." which reads as follows:

"Chapter 19 Emergency Medical Services for Patient Care Facilities § 19-1 Purpose and scope.

The purpose of this article is to preserve and enhance the availability of emergency medical services for legitimate medical emergency situations in the Township by regulating the use of emergency medical services in certain nonemergency situations.

§ 19-2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Chapter, certain words and terms are defined as follows, unless the context clearly indicates the contrary:

"Patient care facilities" means all state-licensed nursing homes, rest homes, health maintenance organizations, assisted living facilities, health-care facilities and residential substance use disorders treatment facilities providing in-patient services, and other licensed or unlicensed medical care providers with the capacity to treat 10 or more outpatients simultaneously.

"Medical emergency" means an illness, injury, symptom or condition so serious that a reasonable person would seek care right away to avoid serious harm.

§ 19-3 Requirements for private ambulance service.

- A. All patient care facilities located within the Township are required to own, lease, rent or have promptly available by contract sufficient, appropriately staffed private ambulance services for the treatment and transport of patients in need of nonemergency medical care. Such ambulance services shall be available 365 days per year and 24 hours per day.
- B. Each patient care facility subject to this article shall file proof of compliance with Subsection A within 60 days of the effective date of this chapter and thereafter annually on or before January 1.
- (1) The required proof must consist of a written contract with no less than two private ambulance service providers under which such providers are obligated to respond promptly to the patient care facility.
- (2) Alternatively, if the patient care facility elects to own, operate, and provide its own ambulance service, then the required proof must consist of written documentation identifying the make, model, year, color, serial number, license plate number, location, and staffing of each ambulance.
- (3) The required proofs must be timely submitted to the Township Clerk along with a certification signed by the resident director, manager, or other authorized corporate officer of the patient care facility affirming: (a) that adequate private ambulance services are available; and (b) that all agents and employees of the facility have been apprised of and trained in the use of such private ambulance services.

§ 19-4 Violations; penalties.

- A. The failure of a patient care facility to comply with the requirements of § 19-2A and B constitutes a violation of this article. Both the patient care facility and its resident director, manager, or authorized corporate officer are liable for such violations, and shall be liable to the penalties stated in Chapter 1, § 1-5.
- B. In the event that an employee or agent of a patient care facility located in the Township takes actions resulting in the dispatch of the Long Hill First Aid Squad and the responding Long Hill First Aid Squad, in its sole discretion, determines that the dispatch did not involve circumstances requiring the use of an advanced life support or paramedic unit, the first aid squad shall provide the Township written certification to that effect and the patient care facility shall be subject to a dispatch fee of \$750, payable to the Township."
- **Section 2.** Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.

Section 3. In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

Scott Lavender, Mayor

ATTEST

Megah Phillips, RMC

First Reading and Introduction: <u>March 8, 2023</u>

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