

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2010-64
SUPPORTING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT FEE (AMBULANCE FEE)
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

- WHEREAS, Bill 13-10, the Emergency Medical Services Transport Fee was passed by the County Council and signed into law by the County Executive on May 19, 2010; and
- WHEREAS, the law has been petitioned to referendum and will appear on the ballot in the November election; and
- WHEREAS, the law would allow the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service to impose and collect a fee to recover costs generated by providing emergency medical service transports; and
- WHEREAS, the fee is expected to raise \$14-\$16 million annually that will be dedicated to maintaining and enhancing Montgomery County's emergency medical services; and
- WHEREAS, Montgomery County residents will not pay the fee – it will be billed directly to residents' insurance companies; and
- WHEREAS, insurance companies already factor this cost into insurance premiums; and
- WHEREAS, the fee for uninsured County residents will be waived and covered by tax dollars; and
- WHEREAS, many other regional jurisdictions already collect ambulance reimbursement from insurance companies, including Prince George's, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Arlington, Washington, and Prince William Counties, the Cities of Alexandria and Baltimore, as well as the District of Columbia; and
- WHEREAS, Montgomery County's current fiscal difficulties impact the County's ability to fund critical programs, provide services, and fulfill its commitments to municipalities; and
- WHEREAS, such fiscal difficulties would be exacerbated by the loss of revenue from the Ambulance Reimbursement Fee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK supports Montgomery County Ambulance Reimbursement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council urges residents to vote "For" the ambulance fee on the referendum.

Adopted this 11th day of October, 2010.