



FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

September 13, 2016

Mr. Craig Hare, Director
Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration
12490 Ulmerton Road – Suite 134
Largo, Florida 33774

Re: EMS Ordinance Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Hare,

Thank you for requesting the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association (PCFCA) review the draft changes to the County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Ordinance and EMS Rules & Regulations regarding Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Services and Stretcher Van Services.

The Fire Chiefs Association offers the following position statements to convey the consensus of the Fire Service in Pinellas County regarding the proposed EMS Ordinance and rule changes:

The PCFCA supports the inclusion of Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Service by County EMS, through Sunstar, for patient discharge transports from Hospitals and other non-emergency ambulance transportation. This effort will help ensure Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulances will be available to respond to 911 medical incidents. Keeping scene time short is key to the success of the ALS First Responder Program and availability of Fire Rescue apparatus for fires and other emergencies.

Further, the PCFCA supports the inclusion of Stretcher Van Services in the EMS Ordinance for non-medical transports. Similarly, this effort will help ensure the proper utilization of services.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts to continually improve the EMS System as the Fire Service serves a large role in the Pinellas County EMS System as the medical First Responders.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Graham
President
Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association

cc: Commissioner Charlie Justice, Chairman, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Chairman, Pinellas County EMS Advisory Council
Mark Woodard, County Administrator
John Bennett, Assistant County Administrator

President
Richard Graham

Vice President
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Secretary/Treasurer
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