

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Police Chief Brian Sandell

DATE: November 21, 2024

MEETING DATE: December 2, 2024



Agenda Item: Recommendation for Adoption of the Resolution to Establish the Breezy Point Police Department EMS Program as a Standalone Program

Background: Since 2006, the Breezy Point Police Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program has required participating officers to maintain dual employment with North Memorial Health Ambulance. This structure was established to facilitate emergency medical care within the community while leveraging the expertise and resources of North Memorial Health. While this model has been successful in the past, it has also introduced several operational challenges that hinder the program's long-term effectiveness and flexibility.

The proposed resolution seeks to address these challenges by transitioning the Breezy Point Police Department EMS Program into a **standalone program**, independent of employment requirements with North Memorial Health Ambulance. However, it is important to note that the program would maintain its **medical direction** and adherence to **patient care guidelines** provided by North Memorial Health Ambulance, ensuring the continuation of high-quality medical oversight and consistency in care standards.

Key Considerations:

1. Operational Efficiency:

- Officers currently face scheduling conflicts and limited availability due to the requirement for dual employment. Establishing a standalone program will allow the department to better manage personnel schedules, allocate resources more effectively, and respond more promptly to medical emergencies.

2. Recruitment and Retention:

- The dual employment requirement limits the pool of potential candidates and creates challenges in retaining officers who may struggle to balance responsibilities with both entities. Transitioning to an independent program will make it easier to attract and retain qualified officers solely focused on law enforcement and EMS responsibilities.

3. Medical Oversight and Patient Care:

The resolution ensures that **North Memorial Health Ambulance will continue to provide medical direction** for the Breezy Point Police Department EMS Program. Officers will remain compliant with **North Memorial Health's patient care guidelines**, maintaining the high standards of medical care that the community has come to expect. This continued partnership

ensures that the program will still benefit from North Memorial's expertise while giving the police department more operational flexibility.

Requested Action: After careful consideration of the operational, financial, and community impact, I recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution to establish the Breezy Point Police Department EMS Program as a standalone program. The resolution will not only improve the department's ability to respond to emergencies but also enhance recruitment, retention, and operational flexibility—all while maintaining high medical care standards through our continued partnership with North Memorial Health Ambulance.

The adoption of this resolution represents a proactive step toward ensuring that our police department is fully equipped to meet the growing needs of the Breezy Point community, with the necessary autonomy to provide effective and efficient EMS services.