



Executive Summary

City Council Business Meeting

AGENDA ITEM-NEW BUSINESS:	Ordinance 334- Charging for Excessive Lift Assists
PREPARED BY:	Jacob Kolander, City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Ordinance 334	

Summary:

The proposed Ordinance No. 334 amends Chapter 1 of the Maple Plain City Code to establish a fee structure for emergency lift assist service calls to assisted living facilities. These calls typically involve non-emergent responses by public safety personnel to assist residents who have fallen or need physical assistance but do not require medical treatment or transport.

Purpose:

Under Minnesota Statutes § 144G.41, assisted living facilities are required to maintain adequate staffing to meet the foreseeable needs of their residents, including mobility assistance. However, the City's public safety departments have been experiencing a high volume of lift assist calls, which has placed a strain on limited resources and impacted service availability for other residents.

This issue has been discussed with representatives from Haven Homes and Comfort Haven, who were informed of the City's concerns and the intent to pursue a cost-recovery mechanism. The ordinance is authorized under Minn. Stat. §§ 366.011 and 415.01, which permit municipalities to impose fees for emergency services.

Key Provisions:

Definitions: Clarifies terms such as "lift assist," "non-emergent fall response," and "assisted living facility."

Fee Structure:

- 1–5 calls/year: \$250 per call
- 6–8 calls/year: \$500 per call

- 9+ calls/year: \$850 per call

Billing & Collection:

- Public Safety will document service calls and forward records to the City Administrator.
- Invoices will be issued quarterly, with a 30-day payment window.
- Delinquent accounts will accrue 8% annual interest.
- Unpaid amounts by September 1 may be certified to Hennepin County for collection as a service charge under Minn. Stat. § 366.012.

Impact: This ordinance encourages assisted living facilities to meet their staffing obligations and reduces the burden on public safety personnel. It also ensures that the City can recover costs associated with repeated non-emergent service calls, preserving emergency response capacity for the broader community.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the City Council approve Ordinance No. 334.