

DRAFT

Broward County Regional EMS Council
EMS Review Committee
September 5, 2019
2:30 p.m.
MINUTES

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
Self-Introductions and call to order	Chief Bruce Caruso, Chair, called the meeting to order. Persons in attendance introduced themselves. Quorum established.	2:45 PM
Announcements	<p>1. Chief B. Caruso remembered the victims of Hurricane Dorian.</p> <p>2. Alison Zerbe announced that in 2021 the private ambulance companies are up for renewal with Broward County; this may give opportunity for other private ambulance companies to come into the county. Therefore, we need to do a needs assessment in 2020. <u>A. Zerbe will do needs assessment, but she asked, for the next meeting, EMS Review members give input/suggestions on how to do needs assessment in Broward County.</u> There are five ambulance companies currently in the county.</p> <p>3. Chief B. Caruso would like the EMS application files to be posted on a SharePoint, if possible, because these files were very large and problematic to email/review. Chief B. Caruso would like this to be worked on.</p>	
Identify Conflicts of Interest	None.	
Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2019	MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes was made by Joanne Richter and SECONDED by Dr. Antonio Gandia.	Motion passed unanimously
Old Business	None.	
New Business		
➤ Class 5 NEMTS Hearing:		
➤ OT Safe Corp.	<p>MOTION TO DENY was made by Joanne Richter and SECONDED by Dr. Antonio Gandia</p> <hr/> <p>Representatives: Wendy Vigo and Olmedo Ramilo</p> <p>R. Sluman, ECPD, reported that the Broward County's Environmental and Consumer Protection Division recommends denial. They met the requirements of Chapter 3½ to go before the EMS Review Committee. Two violations notices are</p>	MOTION passed unanimously.

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	<p>included (December 2018 and August 22, 2019). Based on violations and discussion with others in the community ECPD does not recommend that this company be issued a license.</p> <p>MOTION was made for discussion by Joanne Richter and SECONDED by Merlin Underwood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No permit to be picking up wheelchair patient.• In January 2019 they came in to apply for license and did not have the documents to come before the EMS Review Committee until two weeks ago.• During this time R. Sluman contacted OT Safe Corp. not to do stretcher/wheelchair transportation in Broward County. R. Sluman wanted to make sure they were following all the rules until they got a license.• R. Sluman went out and found that for weeks prior to this meeting OT has been violating the ordinance repeatedly. Not only ordinance violation, but, picking up a patient late for his appointment.• Because the company showed no regard for following the ordinance, ECPD does not think they should be issued a license. <p>The office manager for OT said they have a great reputation with companies and patients they work for and not aware of this one-time 45 minute late situation. She will go back and take a look into it. She said that they were only doing ambulatory trips here. They have a permit to work in Palm Beach County.</p> <p>Chief B. Caruso, in addition to the violation letter was looking at OT's financials. Chief B. Caruso noticed OT had a lot of liabilities and didn't seem to be financially solvent; not much of a profit margin.</p>	

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<p>➤ Executive Ride Transport, Inc.</p>	<p>MOTION TO DENY was made by Dr. Antonio Gandia and SECONDED by Chief Julie Downey.</p> <hr/> <p>Representatives: Wayne Rowe and Rashelle Rowe</p> <p>R. Sluman reported that the Broward County’s Environmental and Consumer Protection Division recommends denial. Staff said that Executive Ride came before the EMS Review Council on March 7, 2019 and received a recommended MOTION to DENY. Executive Ride was to go before the Broward County Commission; just prior to that meeting, they withdrew their application. Now they are coming before EMS Review Committee with a new application. R. Sluman said ECPD has found that little if anything has changed since March 7, 2019 and he still recommends the license be denied.</p> <p>R. Sluman said Executive Ride also has outstanding citation from Miami-Dade, and the building they are operating from is in the foreclosure process. R. Sluman also said there is another lien on another corporation that Mr. Rowe is an officer. In fact, ECPD believes Executive Ride’s ability to perform safely has weakened since March 7, 2019.</p> <p>MOTION to discuss by Chief Julie Downey and SECONDED by Dr. Antonio Gandia.</p> <p>Mr. Wayne Rowe, Executive Ride, said that he was not happy with some of information R. Sluman had which was not true.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• W. Rowe said that he has a permit in Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County; some outstanding violations in Dade County which have been corrected. No outstanding tickets in any county he’s operating.• Operating in Broward County for the last 23 years; operated under Allied Medical Transport which was one of the largest providers in Broward County.	<p>MOTION passed unanimously</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transported up to a million times; no other company has done that in Broward County; 2500 people transported per day.• W. Rowe said they are very stable financially.• Building he owns is his building; they have a private investor who has a balloon payment and there is no foreclosure going on. He owned building since 2008 and it's in stable financial condition.• He feels he should get a chance to prove himself with this company.• In 2010, they were the largest provider in paratransit; 103 wheelchair permits.• All of his vehicles passed inspection.• In 2014, contract went away because they were under bid.• New company started in 2015; granted a permit in 2017.• Went down from 103 wheelchair units to 30; those vehicles passed permits every year; tried to inspect vehicles over 30 times; minor offenses• Has full-time employed mechanics.• He knows the importance of safety and no safety issues.• Has 35 vehicles in his lot and he can't work them; thinks he should get license in Broward County.• In 2018 permit was revoked; changed ownership• They will work with you in Palm Beach County to ensure business; Broward County not working with them enough to keep their business going; Broward County should be more flexible. Found it very hard to communicate with Broward County staff.• He was here on March 7, 2019 and was recommended to go to the Broward County Commission for discussion; he and his attorney decided to do some more research before going to Broward County Commission; he read ordinance thoroughly and couldn't find remedy to work with Broward County to maintain license.• Only remedy was to come back to EMS Review Committee to overturn or	

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	<p>recommend for license. Chief B. Caruso then stated that the EMS Review Committee only recommends and has no authority to overturn decision by Broward County Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He believes he has enough experience and should not be in this position. <p>Dr. A. Gandia said that Executive Ride had the opportunity to go before and discuss with the Broward County Commission and give all reasons why they should be licensed, but, Executive Ride declined to do that. Now it's before EMS Review Committee which only has authority to recommend.</p> <p>Chief B. Caruso said that Mr. Rowe went over the company's history on March 7. Some of the violations were very recent when they were here on March 7. But what EMS Review Committee dealing with is what is happening today. Chief B. Caruso said that the Broward County Commission gave Executive Ride an opportunity for Mr. Rowe and attorney to come back and plead their case, but Executive Ride didn't do it. Chief B. Caruso said that he was confused. Chief B. Caruso said that he wasn't in favor of this, at this time.</p> <p>Dr. A. Gandia said to Executive Ride that they still have the opportunity to go before the Broward County Commission to plead their case. He said they should take that opportunity.</p>	

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<p>➤ Goldstar Transport Services, LLC</p>	<p>MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Merlin Underwood and SECONDED by Joanne Richter</p> <hr/> <p>Representatives: Cynthia and Ivor Wildes.</p> <p>R. Sluman reported that the Broward County’s Environmental and Consumer Protection Division recommends approval. The MOTION is contingent upon meeting all the requirements of Chapter 3½. Yesterday ECPD has not had any issues with this company to-date.</p> <p>MOTION to discuss by Antonio Gandia and SECONDED by Chief Julie Downey.</p> <p>J. Richter said she did not see any insurance records and tax receipt. R. Sluman said that the ordinance allows for this to be pending; records show they have the ability to comply with those requirements.</p> <p>Ivor Wildes, Goldstar, said that they want to provide excellent and on time service. They are a new business and looking forward to providing service to Broward County.</p> <p>Chief B. Caruso asked if they provide any service in Palm Beach or Dade counties. Goldstar indicated that they were a brand new company. Mr. Wildes was in real estate prior to this, owned and managed, for over 20 years. Also, production and management team at Coke-Cola. Cynthia Wildes is a CPA and will do the accounting and auditing.</p> <p>Chief B. Caruso asked if they had a good business plan moving forward. Ms. Wildes said they did research so they could move forward if they get this license; doing homework.</p>	<p>MOTION passed unanimously.</p>
<p>➤ EDMT Corp.</p>	<p>MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Dr. Antonio Gandia and SECONDED by</p>	<p>MOTION passed</p>

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	<p>Chief Julie Downey Representative: Juan David Mino</p> <p>R. Sluman reported that the Broward County's Environmental and Consumer Protection Division recommends approval. The MOTION is contingent upon meeting all the requirements of Chapter 3½. ECPD found no issues.</p> <p>MOTION to discuss by Chief Julie Downey and SECONDED by Dr. Antonio Gandia.</p> <p>EDMT said they have been very meticulous in completing the application. R. Sluman responded quickly to their questions. They are ready to start. They have seven vehicles that have the ability to do wheelchair service.</p> <p>Chief B. Caruso asked if they are currently doing business. They will currently only be in Broward County. They have been in business for seven years, but only doing ambulatory; they are ready to do wheelchair service. R. Sluman said that if a company is paid by insurance company/brokers they do not need a license to do ambulatory.</p>	unanimously.
➤ Optimum Transport Service, Inc.	<p>MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Joanne Richter and SECONDED by Dr. Antonio Gandia</p> <hr/> <p>Representatives: David Noguera and Gloris Vargas.</p> <p>R. Sluman, Staff, reported that the Broward County's Environmental and Consumer Protection Division recommends approval. The MOTION is contingent upon meeting all the requirements of Chapter 3½. ECPD as not had any issue to-date.</p> <p>MOTION to discuss by Chief Julie Downey and SECONDED by Joanne Richter.</p> <p>Optimum stated they are a new business.</p>	MOTION passed unanimously.

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	<p>J. Richter asked about a Broward address. There is a proposed business address in Weston. Waiting to get license to start the operation through that office. After getting the license R. Sluman goes out to see physical location. They included a personal tax return in lieu of a bank financial statement. R. Sluman said they need to show they can maintain the license for two years. Ultimately staff tries to get financial statement.</p>	
<p>➤ Blue Way Transportation, LLC</p>	<p>MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Joanne Richter and SECONDED by Merlin Underwood</p> <hr/> <p>Representatives: Abdul Contreras and Yadir Vargas</p> <p>R. Sluman, Staff, reported that the Broward County's Environmental and Consumer Protection Division recommends approval. The MOTION is contingent upon meeting all the requirements of Chapter 3½. ECPD as not had any issues with this company to-date. Blue Way is currently operating in Palm Beach County.</p> <p>MOTION for discussion by Merlin Underwood SECONDED by Joanne Richter.</p> <p>Blue Way has experience in non-emergency medical transportation. They are using technology to pick up patients in a timely manner. They have seven vehicles and they are providing services for two counties and everyone is arriving on time. Want to expand wheelchair service to Broward County. They started doing operations on March 14, 2019. Doing ambulatory in Broward County; doing wheelchair and stretcher in Palm Beach. Right now, they have office in Boca Raton but will lease in Fort Lauderdale.</p>	<p>MOTION passed unanimously</p>
	<p>To be determined.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>B. Caruso adjourned meeting.</p>	<p>3:50 PM</p>