



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Fire Department**

Date: April 23, 2003
To: Public Safety & Regulatory Services Committee
Referral to: None

Prepared and Submitted by: Joel Fussy, Assistant City Attorney Phone: 673-2067

Approved by: _____
Deputy Chief Dick Turner Chief Rocco Forte'
Director of Emergency Fire Department
Preparedness 673-2536
673-2870

Presenters in Committee: None, unless discussion is requested.

Subject:
Metropolitan Medical Response System

Recommendation:

1. That the City Council grant authority to the proper officials of the Fire Department and City Attorney's Office to amend Contract #017742 with the Department of Veterans' Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in order to allow for a cache of pharmaceuticals provided for use by the Metropolitan Medical Response System to be transferred for storage from the VAMC to North Memorial Medical Center, based upon the mutual agreement of all parties.
2. That the City Council grant authority to the proper officials of the Fire Department and City Attorney's Office to enter into a contract with North Memorial Medical Center (NMMC) in order to allow for the cache of pharmaceuticals provided for use by the Metropolitan Medical Response System to be stored at NMMC, based upon the mutual agreement of all parties.

Previous Directives:
None

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)
 No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals

Comprehensive Plan

Zoning Code

Other

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The City of Minneapolis currently acts as the coordinating fiscal agent for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). The MMRS program is funded by the United States Department of Health & Human Services and has recently come under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security. The primary focus of the MMRS program is to develop and enhance existing emergency preparedness systems to effectively respond to a public health crisis, especially a weapons of mass destruction event.

On February 1, 2002, the City of Minneapolis (in its role as coordinating fiscal agent of MMRS) entered into Contract #017742 with the VA Medical Center (VAMC). This contract provides for the VAMC to participate in the MMRS program and to receive various supplies, equipment, and training pursuant to the program.

One provision of the Contract specifies that the City “shall provide a cache of drugs [and] pharmaceuticals” to the VAMC to be stored in contemplation of use by the MMRS program when and if needed. Based upon an ongoing review of the MMRS program and conversations between the City, the VAMC, and representatives of North Memorial Medical Center and other participants in the MMRS program, it has been mutually agreed upon that this cache of drugs and pharmaceuticals would be more effectively stored at North Memorial Medical Center, and not at the VAMC.

All parties are in agreement that the contract with the VAMC should continue in full force and effect, with an amendment that would remove the provision calling for storage of the pharmaceutical cache at the VAMC. All other provisions of the contract with the VAMC would remain in place and the VAMC would remain a vital participant in the MMRS program. Additionally, all parties, including North Memorial Medical Center, have expressed a desire to

enter into a new contract in which North Memorial would allow the pharmaceutical cache to be stored at its facility once it is removed from the VAMC.

It is anticipated that this purely logistical change in storage locations would be effectuated very quickly after the requested contractual authority is granted by the City Council.