



HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HOUSTONHEALTH.ORG



LETTER OF APPROVAL FOR EMS PROVIDERS

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HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Background of Letter of Approval (LOA)

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 8 and in part, amended section 773.0573 of the Health and Safety Code to provide that an emergency medical services (“EMS”) provider applicant (for a state license) must obtain a letter of approval from the governing body of the municipality in which the applicant is located and is applying to provide emergency medical services.

Background of Letter of Approval (LOA)

Section 773.0573 states the municipality may issue a letter of approval if the governing body determines that:

- (1) The addition of another licensed emergency medical services provider will not interfere with or adversely affect the provision of emergency medical services by the licensed emergency medical services providers operating in the municipality or county;
- (2) The addition of another licensed emergency medical services provider will remedy an existing provider shortage that cannot be resolved through the use of the licensed emergency medical services providers operating in the municipality or county; and
- (3) The addition of another licensed emergency medical services provider will not cause an oversupply of licensed emergency medical services providers in the municipality or county.

The Houston Health Department issues permits for private ambulance companies that operate in the City of Houston.

Emergency transport is strictly a Houston Fire Department duty.

An HHD Permit allows private ambulances to transport patients for non-emergency purposes.

88 Permitted Private Ambulance Companies

465 Private Ambulance vehicles

HFD Non-Emergency Responses

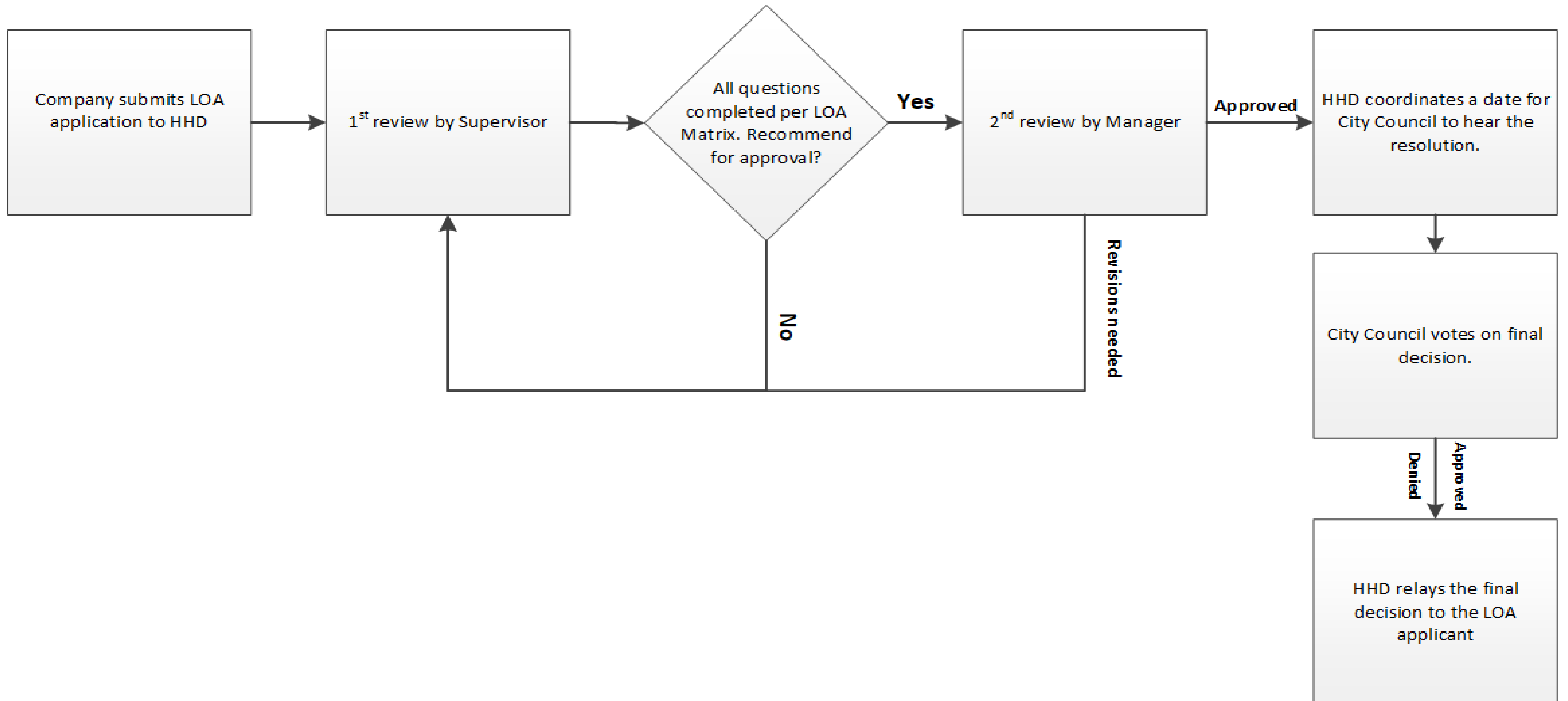
Number of events HFD responded to a facility due to a lack of private ambulance provider (non-emergency transport was made)

City of Houston's population of over 2.3 million in 2019.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/houstoncitytexas/PST045219>

Incident Year	2018	2019	2020
Scene Incident Location Type (eScene.09)			
Assisted Living Facility	2,208	2,077	1,453
Dialysis Facility	368	381	254
Health care provider (Doctor/Clinic) office	4,148	4,421	2,405
Hospital	279	271	212
Nursing home/Group Home	4,652	5,476	3,889
Prison/Jail	1,088	1,266	845
Grand Total	12,743	13,892	9,058

Letter of Approval Process



Letter of Approval matrix contains 26 questions regarding the following areas:

- Location and General Operations
- Vehicles and Equipment
- Personnel
- Medical Director
- City of Houston Chapter 4 Code of Ordinances
- Operations

Recommendation of Approval

Date	Company Name
10/18/2019	Hou-Tex EMS INC
1/13/2020	EMS Pros LLC
1/15/2020	B Williams & Co. LLC BA Elite EMS
2/5/2020	Molentium EMS
4/3/2020	LMS Inc
4/6/2020	Summer Line Transportation, INC
4/7/2020	DN America EMS INC
5/13/2020	Kanemm Group LLC
5/13/2020	Omni EMS
5/15/2020	Greater Texas Emergency Ambulance Transportation Services, Inc.
5/28/2020	Texas Medical Response LLC
6/4/2020	Nova EMS, INC
6/30/2020	TFT Charter Bus and Limo Services LLC
7/2/2020	Elite Medical Response Management, INC
7/22/2020	United Critical Care INC
8/24/2020	Horizon EMS LLC
8/25/2020	Merlin EMS LLC
9/15/2020	Elsaadi INC DBA Texas Medical Response EMS
9/23/2020	Community First Responder Inc
10/6/2020	Impact EMS

HHD recommends 20 companies for LOA.

Thank You!

