



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

240 SPRING GARDEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123-2991

ADAM K. THIEL  
FIRE COMMISSIONER

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May 16, 2019

The Honorable Darrell Clarke  
City Council President  
City Hall, Room 490  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke,

This letter is in response to questions raised at the May 1, 2019 hearing before the Committee of the Whole on the Fiscal Year 2020 proposed budget for the Philadelphia Fire Department. At this hearing, the following questions were asked:

**Council President Clarke:** *Provide additional information on the Fire Department's EMS billing. Specifically, the number of uninsured people in collection, the amount in collections, etc.*

The Philadelphia Fire Department does not currently use a collections agency to pursue any outstanding accounts. Thus, there are no accounts that are in collections. However, the Philadelphia Fire Department can categorize accounts by type of insurance. For any patient whose insurance information is unknown, the City's billing vendor will record it as a "self-pay" account. In FY18, there were approximately 24,800 Self-Pay accounts, or 12.5% of transports. This percentage has remained steady for the past three years, and revenue from these patients has averaged \$345,000 for the same time period. Revenue resulting from FY18 transports identified as self-pay has totaled \$377,455.

**Councilman Henon:** *What is the percentage of EMS incidents that result in transports?*

As of April 30, 2019, 61% of FY19 EMS incidents resulted in transports. In number of incidents, this was 154,468 transports out of a total of 252,898 EMS incidents.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Thiel', written over a blue circular stamp or watermark.

Adam K. Thiel  
Commissioner