

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7-88

JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, The Fire Department historically has had the primary responsibility for on-scene emergency medical services ("EMS") and transport, and at present responds to twice as many EMS calls as fire dispatches; and

WHEREAS, Fire Service administrative control of EMS is well-established in other cities across the nation, and has been recommended in the Cresap, McCormick and Paget report of its management review of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health, pursuant to its Charter-mandated responsibilities, and in recognition of the paramount importance of proper medical supervision for EMS services, should continue to provide medical consultation and advice for EMS;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Wilson Goode, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the authority vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. The Fire Department shall be responsible for the management and day-to-day operations of the Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"), and it shall establish a single line of administrative authority for EMS. The Fire Commissioner shall assure that policy issues of significant medical concern can be brought to his attention by the senior EMS physician through direct communication. To support the EMS function, the personnel, resources and funding of the Department of Public Health EMS Programs shall be transferred to the Fire Department.

SECTION 2. The Department of Public Health shall continue to provide medical consultation and advice with respect to EMS. Specifically, the Commissioner of Public Health shall:

- A. Review the plan of quality assurance for EMS and make appropriate recommendations;
- B. Participate in the development of medical policies for EMS;
- C. Consult with the Fire Commissioner on the selection of medical institution support and the appointment of supervisory physician personnel; and
- D. Be available to the Fire Commissioner and to the senior EMS physician for consultation on policy issues related to the medical care rendered by EMS.

SECTION 3. The Fire Commissioner, with the advice of the Health Commissioner, shall contract with one of Philadelphia's health care and/or health education establishments to provide medical direction under the supervision of physicians certified in the field of emergency medicine for the pre-hospital medical care of persons in need of emergency medical service.

SECTION 4. This order shall be effective July 1, 1988.

April 19, 1988
DATE

W. Wilson Goode
W. WILSON GOODE, MAYOR