

ORDINANCE NO. 211

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING AND CONTROLLING THE OPERATION OF AMBULANCES ON THE STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF MESQUITE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY:

WHEREAS, the facilities for receiving and dispatching emergency calls for ambulances are inadequate to meet the exigencies of the existing situation, and,

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is necessary to protect the public peace, health and safety and to insure prompt and efficient ambulance service for persons in need of the same, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That this Ordinance shall be known as the ambulance ordinance of the City of Mesquite.

SECTION 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to drive or operate any ambulance on the streets of the City of Mesquite on any emergency call arising from a traffic accident on the streets of said City without first having called the Police Department of the City of Mesquite and having received permission from the Police Department or the Police Dispatcher to make said emergency call. The Dispatcher of said Police Department shall authorize the first ambulance operator who calls, reporting an emergency call, to make said call and shall inform all subsequent persons who report said call that the emergency call is already being made by the one who has called first, except in cases where additional ambulances are needed, in which case he shall authorize the making of such call by such other ambulances as are needed.

The said Dispatcher referred to herein shall be the person or persons designated by the Chief of Police of the City of Mesquite, and shall be available by telephone at all hours at the Police Department of the City of Mesquite. The term 'emergency calls' shall be held to mean any and all calls and requests for ambulance service arising from a traffic accident on the streets of said City on account of the circumstances which are, or are represented to be, such as come within the general definition of the term of 'emergency', whether such call be transmitted by private individual, by telephone or in person, or whether such call be transmitted by radio or otherwise.

SECTION 3. (a) It shall hereafter be unlawful for any person, owner or solicitor of ambulance service to follow any police

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car or police wrecker which is traveling in response to a report of a motor vehicle collision or traffic accident on the streets of said City or to follow any ambulance to or near the scene of a traffic accident or motor vehicle collision on the streets of the City of Mesquite.

(b) It shall hereafter be unlawful for any person, owner or solicitor of an ambulance to in any manner solicit on the streets of the City of Mesquite the business of transporting injured persons from the scene of a motor vehicle collision or traffic accident on the streets of the City of Mesquite. Proof of the presence of an ambulance together with the owner, operator or solicitor thereof engaged in the business of transporting injured persons on a public street in the City of Mesquite at or near the scene of a traffic accident or motor vehicle collision, on the streets of said City within thirty minutes after the happening of such accident or collision, shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this section and this provision shall not be considered as altering in any way the express prohibition against solicitation as herein provided.

SECTION 4. No solicitor, owner or person, in the business of furnishing ambulance service in the City, not being authorized by the sender of any radio message over the City police radio station, shall intercept any communication concerning traffic accidents on the streets of said City and divulge or publish the existence, contents, substance, purpose, effect or meaning of such intercepted communication and no such solicitor, owner or person, not being entitled thereto, shall receive or assist in receiving any such message emanating through the medium of the City police radio station and use the same or any information therein contained for his own benefit or for the benefit of another solicitor, owner or person in the business of furnishing ambulance service.

Proof of the presence of an ambulance together with the owner, operator or solicitor thereof on the streets of the City at or near the scene of a traffic accident or motor vehicle collision on the streets of the City within fifteen minutes after the happening of such accident or collision shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this section.

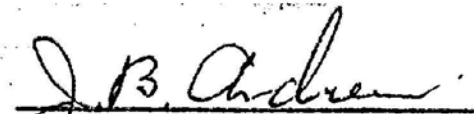
SECTION 5. Any person, owner or solicitor found guilty of the violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed TWO HUNDRED AND NO/100 (\$200.00) DOLLARS.

SECTION 6. WHEREAS, the fact that the City of Mesquite is in need of adequate regulations governing and regulating persons,

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owners and solicitors owning or operating and causing to be operated ambulances for the purpose of removing injured persons from the streets of the City of Mesquite who have been involved in motor vehicle collisions or traffic accidents on the streets of said City and the knowledge of such collisions or accidents is obtained by said persons, individuals and solicitors through police radio broadcast, and in their haste to reach the scene of such collision or accident by such persons, owners and solicitors in order to obtain such business or solicit such business creates a serious and dangerous obstruction and congestion of traffic and endangers the traveling public lawfully using such streets, creates an urgency and an emergency for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and requires that this Ordinance become effective immediately upon its passage, and it is accordingly so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5th day of August, 1958.



J. B. Andrews
Mayor

ATTEST:



Norma G. McGaughy
City Secretary