

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 9/2/08

Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in police patrol vehicles

**REPORT BY:** Beth Pollard, City Administrator

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Ask staff to report back regarding purchase and placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in police patrol vehicles.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable automatic device used to restore normal heart rhythm to patients in cardiac arrest. It is applied outside the body, automatically analyzes the patient's heart rhythm, and advises the rescuer whether or not a shock is needed to restore a normal heart beat. If the heart is in ventricular fibrillation, the microprocessor recommends a defibrillating shock. The shock is delivered by adhesive electrode pads, through the victim's chest wall, and into the heart.

About two years ago, the City placed AED's at City Hall, the Community Center/Library, and the Senior Center. Fire department personnel trained City employees on how to use AED's, as well as on general CPR. (Since that training lasts only two years, the training was recently repeated.) The AED's have an audio recording that help guide the user in how to operate the unit.

AED's are required under state law to be located in all fitness centers

Mayor Lieber has expressed support for the AED as a life saving measure, and would like to see them become more readily available and accessible in the community. One means of accomplishing this goal is to place them in mobile units, such as police patrol vehicles. Mayor Lieber requested an agenda item for Council to ask staff to report back with a recommendation on placing units in patrol vehicles.

**DISCUSSION**

In a typical situation in Albany when a member of the public goes into cardiac arrest, 9-1-1 is called and a Fire Department paramedic unit is dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, the paramedics will quickly check for vitals. With no pulse detected, an ALS defibrillator

will be applied and shock administered manually. Heart rhythm is then monitored through the defibrillator pads. If a heart rhythm is restored, a 12-lead EKG will be applied soon afterwards. In Albany, fire/EMS response time is between three to four minutes.

Issues to be considered in developing an AED patrol vehicle placement plan include:

- Time differential with paramedic response
- The expanded public safety capacity for life saving measures if/when paramedic response is not readily available
- Training for police personnel
- The space available in police patrol vehicles, and wear and tear on items
- Cost of about \$1,000 per unit, and source of funds
- Future maintenance and replacement
- Placing them in some patrol vehicles or all eight marked vehicles

Staff can review these issues and report back with a recommendation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

An AED costs approximately \$1,000 each.