

Rochester man is forced out of ambulance and left out on sidewalk; later dies

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

Rochester Mayor Malik Evans on Thursday addressed an ambulance response on Nov. 30 involving a city resident in a medical crisis.

A video released by the city shows an unidentified man, who was having trouble breathing, being asked to leave an ambulance and wait on the street for another ambulance to arrive to take him to the hospital. It also shows the man falling to the sidewalk and waiting for more than two minutes before medical personnel helped him.

The man died more than two weeks later, Evans said. The mayor did not elaborate on the man's death or if the death was related to the incident.

Rochester police were called to the ambulance to address what was described as an assault of the EMTs on board, Evans said. Police stayed on scene, and were present when the patient fell to the ground, Evans said.

"City residents are people and they deserve to be treated humanely and with the same attention as anyone else," Evans said.

Evans has called for the city's ambulance service provider, AMR, to conduct its own in-depth investigation into what happened that night. In addition, Rochester Police Chief David Smith has called for an immediate internal investigation of the incident by that department's Professional Standards Section.

"We must understand how and why this occurred, and we must identify processes and safeguards to ensure that it does not happen again," Evans said.

Evans said the city would provide updates as more information is gathered.

The City of Rochester has released video of the ambulance response.

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