

**TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD
RESOLUTION 2021-12-7**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TO
CREATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES AS ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the State designates police, fire, and sanitation as essential government services, affording residents and visitors the right to a timely response by law enforcement, who will address an issue relating to public safety and respond; as well as the right to receive fire prevention and suppression services; and the right to a clean community through sanitation services; and

WHEREAS, despite being an integral part of public health and safety, providing education, lifesaving skills, and transportation, when needed, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is not an essential government service in the State of New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, due to this oversight, municipalities are not legally mandated to afford their citizens and visitors with a licensed ambulance with certified Emergency Medical Technicians when a medical emergency arises; and

WHEREAS, a review of call volume reports in major municipalities reveals that individuals who live, work and play in New Jersey are significantly more likely to need Emergency Medical Services than Fire Department services due to the rapidly increasing EMS call volumes that have exceeded pace with the fire service in recent years; and

WHEREAS, while fire and police agencies receive new fire trucks and patrol cars as well as up-to-date equipment, EMS agencies struggle with funding, dated equipment, and unmet demand for personal protective equipment for their employees; and

WHEREAS, these issues have been exacerbated by the escalating levels of infectious disease entering the country; as the State has seen with SARS, Ebola, and, most recently the Coronavirus pandemic, EMS agencies have been forced to adapt to changing circumstances despite being shorthanded; and

WHEREAS, when staffing has fallen short, many municipalities have been left scrambling to afford some level of emergency medical service for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, a legislative finding that EMS is an essential government service, coupled with the same statutory scheme found for both fire departments under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-7 et. seq. and law enforcement agencies under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-106 et. seq., will correct the present inequities between public safety agencies and otherwise ensure that those who live, work, and play in New Jersey receive equal access to emergency medical care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges Governor Murphy and the Legislature to seek to create legislation that would provide funding for, and establish Emergency Medical Services as Essential Government Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the New Jersey Commissioner of Health, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

I, Caryn M. Hoyer, Clerk of the Township of Chesterfield in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy of the Resolution approved by the Township Committee at a duly advertised meeting held on December 9, 2021 at which a quorum was present.

---

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk