

Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance
Corps, Inc.

CON Expansion Public Hearing - NYC REMSCO Pt 2

1 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

2 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Martha, can you hear us?

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yes.

4 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

5 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Oh, sorry. Plug my thing
6 (indiscernible).

7 MARTHA TRIKAS: Mr. Hannigan that's
8 going to be emailing.

9 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

10 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Oh, yes. Okay.

11 MARTINA BACARELLA: All right. Good
12 evening. Welcome to the Ambulance Committee
13 meeting. Today is Tuesday, October 24th, 2023.
14 My name is Martina Bacarella, and we have a guest
15 here, Hearing Officer Timothy Hannigan.

16 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

17 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Good afternoon. Before the
18 hearing begins, does the applicant wish to make
19 any amendments to the application?

20 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: No, I
21 don't.

22 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

23 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: No? All right. Very good.
24 Hearing none, let the record reflect that no
25 amendment to the application is being requested,

1 and I will now call this proceeding to order.

2 The time is 5:27 p.m.

3 This proceeding is a public hearing in
4 the matter of the application of the Bedford
5 Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps to expand
6 their operating territory. As stated in the
7 application, the applicant seeks to expands its
8 certificate of need to include Kings County
9 Community Boards 5, 8 and 16.

10 My name is Tim Hannigan. I'm an
11 attorney from Delmar, New York. I'm going to
12 serve as hearing officer for this hearing in
13 accordance with New York State Department of
14 Health Policy Statement 0606. As hearing
15 officer, I will moderate this proceeding and
16 ensure that the hearing process follows generally
17 accepted procedures. Following the conclusion of
18 the hearing, I will prepare a report, sending
19 forth findings of fact for the New York City
20 Region EMS Council and its Ambulance Committee.

21 This is a public hearing, and I would
22 be remiss if I didn't point out the exits.
23 Follow me out and I'll lead us to safety. I'll
24 be out of the door if something goes wrong here.
25 We have plenty of EMS personnel and Fire, as

1 well, so, we'll have the situation well at hand.

2 This hearing is being held by the
3 Regional EMS Council of New York City pursuant to
4 Article 30 of the New York State Public Health
5 Law and --

6 MARTHA TRIKAS: Counsel. I need --
7 counsel -- counsel -- wait, wait -- counsel --

8 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
9 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: -- is being conducted in
10 accordance with New York State Department of
11 Health Policy Statement 0606.

12 MARTHA TRIKAS: Wait, wait, wait, wait,
13 wait, wait, wait. I'm so sorry. I can't --

14 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
15 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: What's up?

16 MARTHA TRIKAS: You have to go slower.
17 I can't -- I can't get it. You're going really
18 fast for me.

19 MAN: You have to go slower. She can't
20 keep up with you.

21 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
22 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay.

23 MARTHA TRIKAS: Okay.

24 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

25 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: I'm from upstate. All right.

1 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yeah, you've got to go
2 slower.

3 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
4 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: All right. That's good. You
5 got it.

6 MARIE DIGLIO: You're lucky he's not
7 from New York City.

8 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
9 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: I know. That's --

10 MARTHA TRIKAS: So, no. That's what I
11 got.

12 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
13 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: The purpose of this hearing is
14 to provide a technical review and objective
15 evaluation of the applicant's statement of need
16 as well as any other testimony presented. It is
17 the intent of this hearing process to obtain
18 input from the general public and from all who
19 use, provide, paid for, or participate in the EMS
20 system.

21 A stenographic record and a video
22 record of this proceeding is being made. The
23 testimony taken and all exhibits received, and I
24 will go through a list in a few moments here,
25 will constitute the record in this matter.

1 We have multiple members of the New
2 York City Regional EMS Council and its Ambulance
3 Committee here in attendance. Due to the way
4 that we're doing this and some potential
5 microphone issues with our stenographer, I will
6 have the attendance record constructively read in
7 for purposes of indicating your attendance here,
8 assuming that's fine with the Council members
9 present. All right. Very good. I usually like
10 to give you an opportunity to introduce
11 yourselves to the applicant. Please do so after
12 the hearing or when you ask questions. But in an
13 effort to keep the proceeding moving, we'll
14 (indiscernible). Go ahead.

15 MARIE DIGLIO: This public hearing is
16 being livestreamed and recorded. So, there will
17 be a video record.

18 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
19 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you, Marie.

20 All testimony and presentations should
21 be directed to the Council members. Any
22 questions that the applicant or any speaker may
23 have for the Regional Council can be directed to
24 me. Committee members or REMSCO members may
25 raise questions to you during your presentation

1 or afterward. They can -- the Council members
2 can confer, collectively, and then pose questions
3 to you throughout your application process. And
4 the same is true for any member of the public
5 that wishes to offer comments this evening.

6 To support the pending application, the
7 applicant bears the burden of proof for the
8 demonstration of public need. "Public need" is
9 defined as the demonstrated absence, reduced
10 availability, or an inadequate level of care in
11 ambulance or emergency medical service available
12 to a geographical area which is not readily
13 correctible through the reallocation or
14 improvement of existing resources.

15 With respect to exhibits, in this case,
16 the application was deemed complete on September
17 28th, 2023. As a matter of housekeeping, the
18 redacted application, redacted to remove personal
19 identifying information of key persons with the
20 applicant, has been marked and is incorporated
21 into this proceeding as Exhibit 1. A copy of the
22 legal notice of public hearing published prior to
23 today's date, together with the supporting
24 affidavit and notice of the application made by
25 registered or certified mail by the New York City

1 Regional EMS Council has been received and is
2 marked as Exhibit 2. Confirmation from the
3 Department of Health attesting to the applicant's
4 fitness and competency to operate the proposed
5 service and that no further review is needed in
6 that regard was received on October 11th, 2023,
7 and is incorporated into this proceeding as
8 Exhibit 3. The timeline entitled "Account of
9 Events" prepared by Michelle Klem is incorporated
10 into this proceeding as Exhibit 4. The
11 PowerPoint presentation that we will see in a few
12 moments, which was sent by the applicant -- thank
13 you for doing that -- sent by the applicant to
14 the Regional Council before this evening's public
15 hearing is received and is incorporated into this
16 proceeding as Exhibit 5. Multiple letters in
17 support were received from both elected officials
18 and community stakeholders following submission
19 of the application. All of those letters,
20 including one from Park Slope received on today's
21 date are received and incorporated into this
22 proceeding as Exhibit 6.

23 We will commence with the proceeding by
24 Tamsin Wolf, Antoine Robinson, and James Pointer,
25 representatives for the applicant. Thereafter,

1 the floor will be open to those individuals who
2 have requested to speak. At this time, we have
3 one. If anybody else in the gallery wishes to
4 offer comments during the public hearing portion,
5 I will provide you with that opportunity. I just
6 ask when you -- it is your time to speak, please
7 come up to the front here where the microphone
8 is, state and then spell your name for our
9 stenographer.

10 Each member of the public will be
11 allotted approximately three minutes to offer
12 their comments. I may, in the exercise of my
13 discretion, award more time, or if there are no
14 other members of the public other than the one
15 that wishes to speak, I may allow her an extended
16 period of time to speak if she so chooses.

17 At the conclusion of this public forum,
18 the applicant will be afforded the opportunity if
19 it desires to rebut any comments offered in
20 opposition to the application. Such time is for
21 the limited purpose of contradicting or
22 disproving statements, and again, any that may be
23 made in opposition to your application. And
24 that's in your ability to offer rebuttal as
25 something that's specifically called for in

1 Policy Statement 0606, and it's because you have
2 the burden of proof as far as demonstrating need
3 with respect to this hearing.

4 Is there anybody in the audience who
5 did not pre-register to speak, but would like to
6 do so at this time? All right. Seeing none, if
7 anybody needs reasonable accommodations to
8 facilitate speaking, please let me or Michelle or
9 Marie, basically anybody know, raise your hand,
10 we'll make it work.

11 Are there any questions before we
12 begin? All right. Seeing none, we will proceed
13 with the applicant, Bedford Stuyvesant Voluntary
14 Ambulance Corps. Please go right ahead.

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Thank
16 you.

17 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
18 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: So, when either of you begin
19 speaking, just say -- state your name, spell it,
20 and then go ahead.

21 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.

22 MARTHA TRIKAS: Okay. So, I need to
23 know who will be speaking.

24 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
25 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Try and be almost uncomfortably

1 loud like I was.

2 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yes,
3 sir. All right. Good evening. This is James
4 Pointer speaking, by the way. Good evening. We
5 extend our sincere gratitude to all of you for
6 joining us at this evening's Public Hearing
7 focused on the proposed expansion of the
8 operating territory for the Bedford Stuyvesant --

9 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on. Hold on.

10 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER:
11 Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

12 MARTHA TRIKAS: Sir, sir, sir, you have
13 to go slower for me.

14 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
15 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Please go slower.

16 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Please
17 go slower? Okay.

18 MARTHA TRIKAS: Very slow, yes. Okay.

19 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
20 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: How slow?

21 MARTHA TRIKAS: Start over.

22 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Good
23 evening. We extend our sincere gratitude to all
24 of you for joining us at this evening's Public
25 Hearing focused on the proposed expansion of the

1 operating territory of the Bedford Stuyvesant
2 Voluntary Ambulance Corps. We would like to
3 express our heartfelt appreciation to the
4 Ambulance Committee, the Regional Council, and
5 Hearing Officer Tim Hannigan for organizing this
6 event.

7 Tonight, we aim to provide robust
8 rationale and compelling evidence that
9 underscores the public necessity behind our
10 proposed expansion that's been in our operating
11 territory.

12 MARTHA TRIKAS: Just go -- wait, I need
13 you just to go slower so I can --

14 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Through
15 this presentation --

16 MARTHA TRIKAS: I need you to go
17 slower. So, tonight I'm here to provide robust -
18 -

19 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
20 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: You need to go slower where it
21 got to the part --

22 MARTHA TRIKAS: Slower.

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: -- where you were saying the
25 robustness.

1 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: All
2 right. (Indiscernible).

3 Tonight, we aim to provide robust
4 rationale and compelling evidence that
5 underscores the public necessity behind our
6 proposal to expand our operating territory.
7 Through this presentation, we will illuminate key
8 aspects of our application, emphasizing the
9 importance of our expansion. Our hope is that,
10 by the end of our discussion, the EMS Council
11 will be well-informed and prepared to make a
12 decision rooted in the evident public need.

13 MARTHA TRIKAS: I'm sorry. Rooted in
14 the evidence of what?

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: The
16 Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
17 known as BSVAC, is advocating for an extension of
18 its primary operating territory to include the
19 neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Brownsville, and
20 East New York. Over the past few years, BSVAC
21 has closely monitored response --

22 MARTHA TRIKAS: I'm sorry. I can't --
23 for some reason, I can't hear -- you have to go
24 slower because I can't hear you.

25 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

1 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Reading Share is not following
2 you.

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: Crown Heights --

4 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.

5 MARIE DIGLIO: She asked him --

6 MARTHA TRIKAS: You've got to go
7 slower. I know you're reading from something, so
8 you have to --

9 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

10 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: (Indiscernible). Do you have
11 this in printed format? Because all we could do
12 is tell her that we can email it and --

13 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yes, I
14 have it in written format. I have it in written
15 format.

16 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

17 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: All right. So, let us --
18 Martha, can you hear us?

19 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yes.

20 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

21 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes?

22 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yes.

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Mr. Pointer has this in written
25 -- this is off the record. This is just me to

1 Martha here.

2 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yes.

3 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

4 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Mr. Pointer has this in written
5 format as well. So, what he is willing to do is
6 submit that. I will accept that as an exhibit,
7 his written testimony.

8 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: We're
9 emailing it right now.

10 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

11 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Perfect, and he can email that
12 to you to fill in any gaps in what you are
13 experiencing on your end due to the technical
14 situation.

15 MARTHA TRIKAS: Thank you. Yeah,
16 please. And then, look, just also, since you're
17 reading, please just slow down so this way I can
18 make sure I get it. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

20 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yeah.

21 MARTHA TRIKAS: I appreciate it.

22 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you.

25 MARTHA TRIKAS: So, primary operating

1 territory to include the neighborhoods of Crown
2 Heights --

3 MARIE DIGLIO: (Indiscernible) --

4 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.

5 All right, so BSVAC is advocating for an
6 extension of its primary operating territory to
7 include the neighborhoods of Crown Heights,
8 Brownsville, and East New York. Over the past
9 few years, BSVAC has closely monitored response
10 times in these areas, and we have found that they
11 consistently show an extensive wait time for
12 emergency medical services. After careful
13 analysis and considering our financial situation,
14 BSVAC believes we are well-prepared to provide
15 our services to these neighborhoods.

16 Charlie, can you take a look at for me.
17 It's not going to the next slide.

18 MAN: (Indiscernible) --

19 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: There we
20 go.

21 MARTHA TRIKAS: Okay. Just go slower,
22 please, for me.

23 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Founded
24 in 1988 by Captain James "Rocky" Robinson and
25 Specialist Joe Perez, BSVAC emerged with

1 invaluable support from Tamsin Wolf, a pro bono
2 lawyer.

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: I'm sorry. You have to
4 --

5 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: This
6 initiative was born out of a pressing need --

7 MARTHA TRIKAS: I know you -- you have
8 to -- you have to go slower. You really do
9 because I don't know any of these names and
10 they're just coming at me. It has to be slower.

11 MAN: (Indiscernible).

12 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yeah,
13 I'm (indiscernible).

14 MARTHA TRIKAS: Just read it slowly.

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Founded
16 in 1988 by Captain James "Rocky" Robinson and
17 Specialist Joe Perez, BSVAC emerged with
18 invaluable support from Tamsin Wolf, a pro bono
19 attorney. This initiative was born out of a
20 pressing need to address the extended wait times
21 experienced by residents of Bed Stuy during
22 medical emergencies. During that era, it was not
23 unusual for ambulances to take 30 minutes to
24 respond, causing significant delays in critical
25 care. Upon obtaining its New York State DOH

1 Certification, BSVAC dramatically reduced these
2 wait times, consistently maintaining a
3 commendable four-minute response time for both
4 critical and non-critical emergencies.
5 Furthermore, BSVAC expanded its community role by
6 offering First Aid, CPR, and EMT training, as
7 well as mentorship programs for local youth.
8 BSVAC's dedication transformed it into an
9 indispensable resource for Bed Stuy residents.
10 Now, with a proven track record in Bed Stuy,
11 BSVAC is eager to extend these invaluable
12 services to the neighboring areas of Brownsville,
13 Crown Heights, and East New York and address the
14 need for additional ambulances services.

15 The neighborhoods of Brownsville, East
16 New York, and Crown Heights, home to over 365,000
17 residents, expose a notable deficiency in
18 immediate EMS services. Recent data paints --

19 MARTHA TRIKAS: Slow down. I'm sorry.
20 Slow down. Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. You
21 have to go slower. I know you're reading, but
22 you've got to read slower. The neighborhoods of
23 Brownsville --

24 MARIE DIGLIO: Ask if he could start
25 again from --

1 MARTHA TRIKAS: It has to be slower.
2 This way I won't interrupt.

3 MARIE DIGLIO: Does she understand that
4 she's getting this by email?

5 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yeah, I do, but I still
6 have to get it down.

7 MARIE DIGLIO: But she still has to get
8 it down regardless.

9 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.
10 Not a problem. I'll start over.
11 (Indiscernible). BSVAC is eager to extend these
12 invaluable services to the neighboring areas of
13 Brownsville, Crown Heights, and East New York and
14 address the need for additional ambulances
15 services.

16 The neighborhoods of Brownsville, East
17 New York, and Crown Heights, home to over 365,000
18 residents, expose a notable deficiency in
19 immediate EMS services. Recent data paints a
20 concerning picture: during urgent emergencies,
21 residents may experience average delays up to 12
22 minutes. These crucial minutes often shape the
23 course of health outcomes, and such delays are
24 deeply distressing. For less critical
25 situations, the wait times can stretch to an

1 average of approximately 16 minutes. This raises
2 important questions: why should these
3 neighborhoods endure extended wait times during
4 their most critical moments, and what can we do
5 to help alleviate the extended wait times?

6 MARTHA TRIKAS: But hold on. You have
7 to -- wait, wait. Hold on. You have to go
8 slower. I don't know how many times I have to
9 say this. This raises an important question --

10 MARIE DIGLIO: Please go back to
11 (indiscernible) --

12 MARTHA TRIKAS: It has to be slower.

13 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.
14 This raises important questions: why should
15 these neighborhoods endure extended wait times
16 during their most critical moments, and what can
17 we do to help alleviate these extended wait
18 times?

19 The answers to those questions are
20 within this expansion application and this public
21 hearing tonight. BSVAC understands the problem
22 which these neighborhoods are facing because it
23 is the same problem that BSVAC was founded in
24 1988 to address in Bed Stuy. The expansion of
25 BSVAC's operating territory can help begin to

1 reduce response times in these neighborhoods by
2 using our community-based ambulance service
3 dedicated to meet their needs and to "put the
4 help where the hurt is." Amid the peak
5 challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, BSVAC
6 proactively --

7 MARTHA TRIKAS: I'm sorry -- I didn't
8 hear that. I'm sorry. Hold on. "Where the hurt
9 is." I didn't hear the last part. Just slow it
10 down and then, this way I don't have to --

11 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Amid the
12 peak challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, BSVAC
13 proactively collaborated with the New York City
14 Regional Mutual Aid Activation to strengthen the
15 city's emergency preparedness.

16 MARTHA TRIKAS: I'm sorry. You're --
17 you're -- I can't hear you well. You're just too
18 -- it's too low. God, I just can't. Act like
19 you're screaming, but low, slow.

20 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
21 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Off the record. So, it's too
22 low for the stenographer to -- what's --

23 MARTHA TRIKAS: It's too low and too
24 fast. So, I need both. I know he's reading from
25 something, but I --

1 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Is it
2 possible for me to just (indiscernible) --

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: I really need it slow.

4 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
5 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yeah.

6 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER:
7 (indiscernible) --

8 MAN: Put both of them there.

9 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER:
10 (indiscernible) --

11 VICE-PRESIDENT TAMSIN WOLF:
12 (Indiscernible) slide show and then the top will
13 display?

14 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: No, it's
15 because it's on Zoom, that's why. It's a
16 slideshow (indiscernible) --

17 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
18 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: So, are we going to continue?

19 MARIE DIGLIO: She's going to
20 (indiscernible) so that we can hear her.

21 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
22 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay. Yeah.

23 MARIE DIGLIO: We apologize
24 (indiscernible) --

25 (Crosstalk)

1 MAN: Martha? (Indiscernible) --

2 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yeah? Yes?

3 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: All
4 right.

5 MARTHA TRIKAS: All right. So, very
6 slow.

7 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: No
8 problem.

9 MARTHA TRIKAS: It has to be slow.
10 Otherwise, I'm not getting it. I'm not getting
11 it. It has to be --

12 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.
13 I'll try to go as slow as possible.

14 MARTHA TRIKAS: Thank you.

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Amid the
16 peak challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, BSVAC
17 proactively collaborated with the New York City
18 Regional Mutual Aid Activation to strengthen the
19 city's emergency preparedness. Even in doing so,
20 our unwavering commitment to the Bed Stuy
21 neighborhood remained resolute. We remained
22 focused on our primary area by operating a
23 community-based ambulance dedicated to providing
24 EMS to Bed Stuy while also operating an
25 additional ambulance available to other

1 neighborhoods in the 911 system. Remarkably,
2 during the COVID-19 Pandemic, nearly a fifth of
3 our emergency responses were dedicated to these
4 very areas we are now eager to support more
5 comprehensively.

6 The current landscape of EMS is
7 undergoing a discernible transformation. Due to
8 high turnover rates, many organizations have
9 turned to 'Earn to Learn' programs to address
10 staffing shortages, while others have adjusted
11 their personnel to align with the minimum
12 ambulance crew standards of a Certified EMT and
13 Motor Vehicle Operator set by the New York State
14 DOH Bureau of EMS to meet their service needs.
15 The more frequent usage of the FDNY EMS Fall Back
16 Response, a response to escalating emergency
17 calls --

18 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on. You're going
19 fast -- hold on. You're going -- wait, wait,
20 wait, wait, wait. "The most" -- you've got to go
21 slower. "The most" --

22 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: The most
23 frequent usage of the FDNY EMS Fall Back
24 Response, a response to escalating emergency
25 calls amidst staffing shortages, underscores this

1 challenge. It highlights the urgent need for
2 additional ambulance support in these
3 neighborhoods to assist with prolonged wait times
4 -- a responsibility BSVAC is prepared to
5 shoulder.

6 By expanding BSVAC's operating
7 territory, each of these neighborhoods will
8 benefit from an ambulance service whose primary
9 concern is their specific neighborhood. While
10 the contributions of the FDNY and its affiliated
11 hospital resources are not disregarded or
12 omitted, the sheer call volume often surpasses
13 their staffing capabilities, leading --

14 MARTHA TRIKAS: You've got to slow --
15 you've got to slow -- wait, wait, wait. You've
16 got to slow down. It's -- "are not discarded or
17 omitted" -- slow down.

18 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: All
19 right. While the contributions of the FDNY and
20 its affiliated hospital resources are not
21 disregarded or omitted, the sheer call volume
22 often surpasses their staffing capabilities,
23 leading to delayed responses.

24 BSVAC's expansion to these areas can
25 ensure that their neighborhoods receive timely

1 emergency care they rightfully deserve with no
2 cost or burden to existing resources or the
3 community.

4 The screen shows a map highlighting
5 BSVAC's current service area in blue, while Crown
6 Heights, Brownsville, and East New York are
7 accented in orange. These regions correspond to
8 Community Boards 5, 8, and 16, and fall under the
9 watch of the 73rd, the 75th, and 77th Precincts.
10 Collectively --

11 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on.

12 (Indiscernible) -- "and fall under the watch".
13 Hold on, "and fall" -- just slow down. "And fall
14 under the watch" --

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: -- falls
16 under the watch of the 73rd, the 75th, and 77th
17 Precincts. Collectively, this expands an
18 additional 8.4 square miles. So, a question may
19 arise: can BSVAC effectively cover this
20 expansive territory? Our confident response is,
21 "Absolutely."

22 BSVAC is fully equipped to serve all
23 these areas holistically. We currently have a
24 fleet comprising 2 type-3 ambulances and 1 type-1
25 ambulance at our disposal. Moreover,

1 Assemblywoman Stefanie Zinerman has generously
2 granted --

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on. Hold on.
4 "Moreover" --

5 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER:
6 Moreover, Assemblywoman Stefanie Zinerman has
7 generously granted \$125,000 towards the
8 procurement of a new ambulance. Recognizing the
9 growth on the horizon, BSVAC has already
10 earmarked funds for another ambulance,
11 specifically designed for the needs of the new
12 neighborhoods.

13 But our strength isn't limited to our
14 vehicles. Our dedicated squad of over 40 EMTs,
15 drivers, and dispatchers stand ready to operate
16 the ambulances and deliver essential care to
17 those in distress.

18 In alignment with our growth vision,
19 BSVAC is introducing a new operational strategy.
20 This plan is crafted to optimally place our
21 ambulances within both our existing and proposed
22 --

23 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on. Hold on.
24 "This plan" -- hold on. "This plan" --

25 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Say that

1 again? I'm sorry. What did you -- where do you
2 want me to start from?

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: "This plan is crafted"
4 --

5 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: This
6 plan is crafted to optimally place our ambulances
7 within both our existing and proposed
8 territories, ensuring timely and effective
9 responses to emergencies. We aim to serve all
10 neighborhoods we touch. Further, our
11 interactions with community representatives
12 suggest a potential setup of a satellite facility
13 in these regions, making operations like shift
14 changes, equipment restocking, and vehicle upkeep
15 more efficient. Such initiatives highlight an
16 unwavering dedication to the neighborhoods which
17 we are proposed to expand our services.

18 During our application phase, BSVAC
19 actively met with community stakeholders --

20 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on. So, wait,
21 wait. Slow down, slow down. "During our
22 application phase" --

23 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: -- BSVAC
24 actively met with community stakeholders who are
25 instrumental in shaping the well-being of their

1 neighborhoods. This engagement spanned elected
2 officials, community boards --

3 MARTHA TRIKAS: Hold on. You've got to
4 -- you've got to slow down. "Neighborhoods" --

5 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: This
6 engagement spanned elected officials, community
7 boards, business leaders, and medical
8 institutions. Their endorsement and the warmth
9 with which they've embraced our initiative are
10 deeply heartening. We're profoundly grateful for
11 their trust and eagerly anticipate collaborating
12 closely with them in the days ahead.

13 Furthermore, our association with other
14 volunteer ambulance services, united by our
15 shared mission of ensuring swift ambulance
16 services, fills us with pride. Their consistent
17 support for BSVAC and dedication to their own
18 communities is commendable, and we extend our
19 heartfelt thanks.

20 Lastly, a big thank you to everyone
21 present at this evening's public fact-finding
22 hearing on behalf of the Bedford Stuyvesant
23 Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Your participation is
24 greatly appreciated. Thank you.

25 MARIE DIGLIO: Okay. Can we stop for

1 one moment? Since we have a livestream, and it's
2 being recorded, I've been advised by our public
3 hearing officer that we will do a transcription
4 based on the video that we collect tonight.

5 MARTHA TRIKAS: I'm sorry. I can't
6 hear you. I'm so sorry. Can you say that
7 louder? I can't hear you.

8 MARIE DIGLIO: (Indiscernible)

9 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER:
10 (Indiscernible)

11 MARTHA TRIKAS: I can't hear.

12 MARIE DIGLIO: We can't hear you.

13 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yeah, we
14 can't hear you.

15 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yeah.

16 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

17 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: So, thank you. Martha, so what
18 we're proposing to do is send a copy of the
19 recording following the completion of this
20 hearing to you for transcription. So, that way,
21 it could be -- you could slow it down, pause, do
22 whatever has to be done, in addition to having
23 the benefit of the written comments that were
24 just presented. I've done that with other
25 regional councils in the past for this type of

1 hearing where the stenographer gets a recording
2 and thereafter does the transcription. If there
3 are follow up questions, obviously, we can answer
4 them. But does that -- I think that's the path
5 Marie would like to go on, and it's done
6 elsewhere so I'm comfortable with that process.

7 MARTHA TRIKAS: Wait. I don't -- I
8 mean, it's still -- it has to be done very slowly
9 because I'm still -- I still have to write this
10 down.

11 MARIE DIGLIO: We are going to send you
12 the video and you can do your transcription based
13 on the video that we are recording and then send
14 us the transcript afterwards. That's been done
15 before. And this way, you can control the speed
16 of the playback, okay?

17 MARTHA TRIKAS: (Indiscernible) okay.

18 MARIE DIGLIO: Okay. Good. So, thank
19 you very much and we'll be contacting you.

20 MARTHA TRIKAS: Okay. So, how much
21 more reading do we have of this stuff?

22 MARIE DIGLIO: Martha, we're going to
23 stop the transcription at this point, and we will
24 send you a video.

25 MARTHA TRIKAS: When you say, "the

1 transcription," I don't have to take it down
2 you're saying?

3 MARIE DIGLIO: No, don't take it down
4 now. We are going to -- you don't have to stay.
5 We're going to email to your company a copy of
6 this video and then you can play it back and do
7 your transcription that way. This way we can go
8 forward. This is taking up too much time with
9 all these technical difficulties.

10 MARTHA TRIKAS: Yeah. You know it's
11 hard when the reporter is not there and you know,
12 it's --

13 MARIE DIGLIO: yeah. No, I think this
14 will make it easier. So --

15 MARTHA TRIKAS: Perfect. Okay. So,
16 then I'm going to leave then and then you're
17 going to have to -- and then you're going to send
18 me this or Lexitas.

19 MARIE DIGLIO: Yes.

20 MARTHA TRIKAS: Okay.

21 MARIE DIGLIO: We'll send it to
22 Lexitas. Okay. Thank you.

23 MARTHA TRIKAS: Thank you so much.

24 (Crosstalk)

25 MARTHA TRIKAS: Thank you.

1 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
2 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: All right. So, we'll begin with
3 public speakers. That's how loud it is
4 (indiscernible). All right. So, Charlie, we're
5 still live, you're still recording? Very good.
6 All right.

7 Thank you, Mr. Pointer, for that
8 presentation.

9 Ms. Wolf, Mr. Robinson, would you care
10 to make any additional comments on behalf of the
11 applicant during the presentation period that you
12 have now?

13 COMMANDING OFFICER ANTOINE ROBINSON:
14 No, not at this time.

15 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
16 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: No? He did a great job?

17 COMMANDING OFFICER ANTOINE ROBINSON:
18 He did a fantastic job.

19 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
20 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: All right. Very good.

21 MAN: I just want to say, you stayed
22 incredibly patient.

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: I had a couple of questions.
25 You touched on the highlights of them, but I

1 wanted to, kind of, call it out through the
2 narrative. First, the data that you referred to
3 was all derived from publicly available --

4 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Publicly
5 available information online, yes.

6 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
7 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: With respect to -- I read
8 through and who knows how it'll come out on the
9 transcript, but the definition of "public need,"
10 which is cumbersome to read even when you're not
11 remote and the stenographic transcription. So,
12 with respect to reallocation of existing
13 resources, in the narrative, you talked about, if
14 that was going to happen, it would have, and the
15 staffing isn't there to -- for existing HCs to
16 reallocate. Can you talk about that and kind of
17 focus in on that?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: So,
19 basically, this has been an issue over the past
20 couple of years. It's actually -- it's part of
21 the record so you can see that the response times
22 are extended. So, the allocation of resources,
23 if it would have happened, it should have
24 happened already because the extended time is
25 over 12 minutes and 16 minutes for calls is, you

1 know, something that I think that should be
2 addressed.

3 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
4 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: And then the other statistic
5 that was contained in the narrative that I wanted
6 to highlight was, there are approximately -- your
7 agency has determined there were about 27,000
8 requests for calls in the area sought for
9 expansion.

10 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: That was
11 -- yeah, that was just a year. That was just for
12 the year.

13 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
14 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: One year?

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Just for
16 one year, collectively for all three
17 neighborhoods, it was about 27,000 jobs.

18 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
19 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay. Do any members of the
20 Council have any questions for the applicant?
21 Yeah. Sure. Go right ahead. Just state your
22 name and then go ahead and ask.

23 WILLIAM GOFFIN: It's William Goffin,
24 G-O-F-F-I-N. Just quick, on the map when you
25 were talking about it, the exposed area is the

1 bigger area or --

2 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: The
3 bigger area, correct.

4 WILLIAM GOFFIN: It is? I was just
5 trying to point it out for clarification of what
6 you were saying.

7 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: No
8 problem.

9 WILLIAM GOFFIN: Thank you.

10 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
11 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thanks. Go ahead, sir.

12 JIM DOWNEY: Jim Downey, Volunteer
13 Ambulance Association. I have a question for Mr.
14 Pointer. Is Bed Stuy currently participating in
15 the 911 calls?

16 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yes. We
17 just recently put an ambulance out in the 911
18 system as of last week. We have been going
19 through PMS with our vehicles, so we haven't been
20 operating just to make sure that the vehicles are
21 upkept properly.

22 JIM DOWNEY: Thank you.

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Go ahead, sir.

25 DAVE MEKETANSKY: So, this is Dave

1 Meketansky, also with the Volunteer Ambulance
2 Rescue Association.

3 MARIE DIGLIO: Can you spell your name?

4 DAVE MEKETANSKY: M-E-K-E-T-A-N-S-K-Y.
5 You know, speaking -- having worked with a lot of
6 volunteer agencies throughout the city, the need
7 is not only, you know, minutes of response time,
8 but how we train new providers, getting people
9 in. I've known a lot of Bed Stuy members who
10 have, you know, worked with Bed Stuy, and become
11 better providers. So, if you want to talk about
12 how you can help the need of, you know, good
13 providers today, good providers in the coming
14 years, and how Bed Stuy supports that and how
15 this expansion will help that need for good
16 providers.

17 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: So, when
18 we have new EMTs or those who are not EMTs, we
19 always -- if you're not an EMT, we always
20 encourage you to go to school and become an EMT
21 due to the fact that we have been providing 911
22 ambulances to the city and also providing
23 community-based ambulance services for the
24 organization. We train them on both aspects.

25 So, we train them as if you were

1 working for a place like Northwell or NYU or
2 Mount Sinai. We train you how to log into the
3 system, how to call RCC, how to make sure that
4 your 81 times stay under 25 minutes, if you need
5 to go out of service who to notify and if it's
6 any incidents in the field, how to contact the
7 condition boss, et cetera.

8 And also on our end, because we operate
9 just slightly different, teach them our way, how
10 we dispatch, how the calls come in. If someone
11 calls on the phone and requests an ambulance, how
12 to go through the process of triaging and things
13 like that. So, we try to prepare them as much as
14 possible for when they leave here and they go
15 into the real world, that they are able to
16 provide their best care and also work,
17 operationally, to the best of their capabilities.

18 And oh, yes, also, we do QA QI, so at
19 times we do pull ACRs, and we try to make sure
20 that our paperwork is up to par and our EMTs know
21 what to write and what not to write, and don't
22 get restricted.

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you. Are there any
25 further questions from the Council? Sure. Go

1 right ahead.

2 GRACE CACCILOLOA: Good evening. Grace
3 Caccioloa, FDNY EMS Operations. You quoted
4 several stats and fallback. Is there any place
5 we can look that information up because you're
6 stating a 12- to 16-minute response time?

7 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Well,
8 the 12 to --

9 GRACE CACCILOLOA: -- (indiscernible).

10 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Also,
11 the 12-minute response times called for Segments
12 1 through 3, and the 16-minute response time is
13 for Segments 4 to 7 or 4 to 8, as defined on the
14 website as critical and non-critical responses.

15 GRACE CACCILOLOA: Is there any place we
16 can look up these stats because they don't line
17 up with what's actually being reported?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Well,
19 the stats that we got came from the New York City
20 Open Analytics website.

21 GRACE CACCILOLOA: And you also
22 mentioned fallback. Fallback has nothing to do
23 with ambulances being dispatched to specific
24 areas. It's actually the first ambulance due
25 regardless of (indiscernible) once that gets

1 dispatched. So, I'm just a little concerned that
2 we're using terminology and stats that aren't
3 actually complying with what's going on.

4 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: But it
5 also takes away from the fact is if you have the
6 response for a job, let's say, a different
7 (indiscernible) than what you normally would have
8 with ALS in a BLS response. You would only send
9 a BLS ambulance, which means that -- ALS -- I
10 know -- if that's the case, then I'm wrong
11 because I work in the system on a consistent
12 basis. And if we're requesting for additional
13 resources, we're always told we're on fallback,
14 just transport.

15 GRACE CACCILOLOA: So, that gets
16 dispatched (indiscernible) Can you just tell me
17 where you got these stats from?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: The New
19 York City Open Analytics website. I can --
20 thedatacityofnewyork.us. That's the actual
21 website.

22 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
23 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay. In further response to
24 the question, I think there's a footnote on Page
25 4 of the narrative. It's Footnote 10 where

1 there's a link that it sounds like --

2 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yes.

3 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

4 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: -- what Mr. Pointer just
5 referred to.

6 GRACE CACCIOLOA: (Indiscernible) --

7 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

8 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Are there any further questions
9 for the applicant? Sure. Go right ahead.

10 DANIEL MEISELS: Daniel Meisels, M-E-I-
11 S-E-L-S, New York City Health and Hospitals.
12 Excuse me. So, my -- I'm a little concerned
13 about the geography. That's an enormous amount
14 of land that you're proposing to cover.

15 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.

16 DANIEL MEISELS: Now, certainly, if you
17 look ahead, you know, assuming that this
18 application is approved and you get the third
19 ambulance and then the fourth ambulance, it looks
20 like, in five years, where you want to be and
21 where you want to get to is -- it's reasonable to
22 support that geography. But with only two
23 ambulances in service right now, and with one
24 potentially kind of being held in reserve for 911
25 participation, could you speak a little bit more

1 about how you think the -- you'd be able to serve
2 such an extensive or expansive geography with
3 only the limited resources you have today?

4 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.
5 So, I'm just going to have my -- my Commanding
6 Officer would like to answer that question.

7 COMMANDING OFFICER ANTOINE ROBINSON:
8 All right. Commanding Officer Antoine Robinson,
9 Bedford Stuyvesant volunteer. So, we sat there,
10 and we looked at the area, we looked and said
11 that East New York is huge. It is very big.
12 Brownsville, Crown Heights is our neighbor. I
13 assure you that Crown Heights wouldn't be an
14 issue at all. With the support that we have been
15 receiving in recent years and the amount of
16 volunteers that call to come and ride on our
17 ambulance and help out, I believe that the amount
18 of ambulances that we are able to provide -- what
19 we have currently is the two ambulances. We have
20 one on the way and another one we have to
21 purchase.

22 Unfortunately, with the ambulance being
23 in backlog, the fastest, most efficient way that
24 I believe that this organization can supplement
25 the 911 system in those communities is just

1 simply purchase used ambulances. And I mean, you
2 could purchase a used ambulance fairly quickly.
3 And with us being financially stable at this
4 time, we're willing to do so and allocate the
5 necessary funds to make sure that we are able to
6 cover these areas that we are applying for.

7 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
8 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Are there any further questions
9 for the applicant? Any further questions for the
10 applicant? All right. Seeing none. Thank you.

11 We'll now open the hearing up to
12 members of the public who wish to speak. The
13 first member of the public and actually the only
14 member of the public who has signed up to speak
15 at this point is Tiera Mack. And you can --
16 actually right over here. We'll find a
17 microphone here.

18 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: I'll
19 slide back so you can --

20 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
21 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: And just state and spell your
22 name for the record. Thank you.

23 TIERA MACK: Absolutely. My name is
24 Tiera Mack and that is spelled T-I-E-R-A, Mack,
25 M-A-C-K, and I am the Executive Director of the

1 Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District in
2 Brownsville. That boulder -- those boundaries
3 are Pitkin Avenue between Mother Gaston and
4 Howard and on Rockaway, between Bellmont and
5 Glenmore. But I pretty much work with all of the
6 businesses between East New York and Sutter on
7 all of those corridors. That is a pretty
8 extensive area, and it is the area that Mr.
9 Pointer and his staff at the Volunteer Ambulance
10 Service will be covering.

11 And what I can say from being in the
12 Business Improvement District and I'm also a
13 resident of Brownsville, Ocean Hill border.
14 Being a resident and being Executive Director of
15 the Pitkin Avenue BID, what I know is that we
16 have plenty of emergencies between car accidents,
17 to shootings, to stabbings, to mental health
18 crises, and we would need additional services in
19 our community.

20 I have witnessed on the corridor, long
21 response times. I have also witnessed -- you
22 know, we have violence disruptors in our
23 community. So, we have a community that is
24 already accustomed to supplemental services that
25 are provided from people that are doing volunteer

1 or nontraditional forms of public service work,
2 right. So, I know that the community, (a) would
3 be interested in something like this and fully
4 support it, and I also know that it is deeply
5 needed because of the extensive issues that we
6 have in Brownsville. Though, you know, our crime
7 is down, we still -- and we also have a high
8 population of elderly folks and an elderly
9 building at the corner of Mother Gaston and
10 Pitkin. And that has frequent -- if an elderly
11 person falls, they call the ambulance, right.

12 So, we have frequent need for ambulance
13 service due to aging population, the current
14 conditions in Brownsville, and just it being a
15 busy neighborhood with a busy business corridor,
16 quite a few busy business corridors.

17 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
18 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you very much. Do any
19 members of the Council have any questions for Ms.
20 Mack? Seeing none. Thank you. Oh, go ahead.
21 I'm sorry, sir.

22 JIM DOWNEY: Jim Downey again. I'm
23 looking at the map here. It appears Ocean Hill
24 and Brownsville are partly in the current service
25 area?

1 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yeah.
2 So, that's why if you look at our application, it
3 states in there that we are -- that we cover
4 approximately 20 percent of Brownsville, East New
5 York already in our current area, along with an
6 additional service area that we don't cover the
7 entire community, Board 3. So, the additional
8 two blocks to Atlantic Avenue would give us the
9 opportunity to cover the whole Community Board 3.

10 JIM DOWNEY: Okay.

11 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
12 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you. Are there any
13 members of the public who have not signed up that
14 would like to speak? Come right up, sir. Step
15 up there. State and spell your name and then
16 proceed with your comments.

17 WARREN THOMAS: My name is Warren, W-A-
18 R-R-E-N, and I've also just moved from the East
19 New York area. And I would like to say this, six
20 months ago, my aunt had a stroke, a severe
21 stroke, and it happened around 3:00 a.m. I
22 called 911, and the response time took them 23
23 minutes just to get a truck to me. On top of
24 that, Fire was there, and they had a little bit
25 of material that can help her. And I felt very

1 heartbroken at the fact that I had to wait 23
2 minutes for one truck to come, which was a BLS
3 unit and wasn't able to support the needs that
4 she needed.

5 Three months after having that severe
6 stroke, she turned around and had another stroke.
7 Again, their call time and response for FDNY to
8 get there was 17 minutes. I feel like with BSVAC
9 expanding, it will be great to service the needs
10 for the people and the public. And I also feel
11 like the response time will be a little bit more
12 shorter.

13 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
14 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you. Do any members of
15 the Council have any questions for Mr. Warren?
16 Any questions for Mr. Warren? Can you just
17 clarify the dates of the calls you said with
18 respect to your aunt? Like, approximate months.

19 WARREN THOMAS: So, my aunt caught a
20 stroke -- her first stroke she caught was in, I
21 want to say, April.

22 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
23 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay.

24 WARREN THOMAS: The first one was in
25 April.

1 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

2 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: April of 2023, this year?

3 WARREN THOMAS: Yes, 2023.

4 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

5 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay. That's all I have. Thank
6 you.

7 WARREN THOMAS: No problem.

8 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

9 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Is there any other member of the
10 public that wishes to speak? Any other member of
11 the public that wishes to speak? All right.
12 There being no one else who seeks to comment
13 further on this application from the public, the
14 public forum is now closed.

15 No one at the public hearing spoke in
16 opposition to the application. Nevertheless, if
17 you want to make some closing remarks now, in a
18 few minutes, I'll offer you that opportunity.

19 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Just a
20 quick question. The letters that were sent over
21 for those who couldn't make it --

22 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

23 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes.

24 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: -- to
25 the meeting, will those be added into the public

1 hearing? Because I know we had one person that
2 spoke, but I know several people stated that they
3 could not make it.

4 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
5 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes, yes, and I'll note that
6 too. So, in addition to the -- Ms. Mack who
7 spoke here, the Regional Council received
8 numerous letters of support from elected
9 officials, community stakeholders, all
10 unanimously in favor of the application from
11 federal to state and local. Those have been
12 incorporated into this proceeding. I'm just
13 going to pull up the exhibit number for you,
14 Exhibit 6. So, I included all of those,
15 including there was one today received from Park
16 Slope Ambulance that we included.

17 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Yes.

18 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
19 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes.

20 TAMSIN WOLF: Did you also get the
21 seven written statements that were separately
22 emailed?

23 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
24 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes.

25 TAMSIN WOLF: Those were in addition to

1 the letters of support.

2 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

3 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes.

4 TAMSIN WOLF: These are more recent.

5 Okay.

6 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

7 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yes. Yup.

8 TAMSIN WOLF: Thank you.

9 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

10 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Yeah, Michelle sent those --
11 everything that was sent to the Regional Council
12 that was sent there after your application was
13 submitted, is Exhibit 6. And those are all
14 letters of support that -- community
15 stakeholders, elected officials, and the letter
16 today from Park Slope Ambulance. All right.

17 So, do you wish to make any closing
18 remarks?

19 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: No other
20 closing remarks.

21 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

22 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: All right.

23 COMMANDING OFFICER ANTOINE ROBINSON:

24 Well, I definitely will.

25 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

1 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Okay. Go ahead, sir.

2 COMMANDING OFFICER ANTOINE ROBINSON:

3 First and foremost, I would like to thank you all
4 for reviewing our application and allowing us to
5 come forth at this hearing. My Chief of Staff,
6 James Pointer, has been doing a phenomenal job
7 keeping the Volunteer Ambulance Corps afloat,
8 Tamsin Wolf, with her assistance. I think
9 everyone in this room, if they have been paying
10 attention to the action of Bed Stuy, you guys
11 have seen the improvement that we have
12 accumulated in most recent years.

13 And Warren came and spoke about -- Mr.
14 Thomas that came and spoke about his grandmother
15 is the same reason we're seeking to expand. It
16 might look different with statistics, but at the
17 end of the day, myself, and my volunteers have a
18 passion for this. And if we can save one life or
19 help one person with this expansion, that is the
20 entire purpose of it. And that's our duty,
21 that's the calling that we are here for. 90
22 percent of the volunteers that I have on the
23 truck work a 9:00 to 5:00 with various hospitals,
24 FDNY, other private ambulance corps, and these
25 guys will leave their job, when they can work

1 overtime, and you guys know we do not get paid a
2 lot of money as EMTs and volunteers, and they
3 will -- as EMTs and paramedics. They will leave
4 their job and come and run on the truck and
5 volunteer their services for the people in need.

6 We can do the carry downs. We know
7 EMTs and paramedics out there get sick of getting
8 called for all the BS jobs where you just have to
9 teach someone how to take their medication.
10 Well, you know what, ladies and gentlemen, that's
11 what the Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance
12 Corps is here for. And if we need to bring that
13 to Crown Heights, Brownsville, and East New York,
14 which we all know is underserved, that's our
15 purpose, and that's what we're here for. Thank
16 you.

17 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY
18 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Thank you, Mr. Robinson. Do any
19 members of the Council have any questions for Mr.
20 Robinson? All right. Seeing none. The time is
21 now 6:13 p.m. The record is closed.

22 There will be a transcript made of this
23 proceeding at some point. I can't wait to read
24 it. (Indiscernible) if you still have the
25 transcript and submit to the Ambulance Committee

1 and Michelle and Marie, the Committee will meet
2 and then make a recommendation to the entire
3 Regional Council as to whether the application
4 for expansion should be approved.

5 There being no further business before
6 the Committee, I adjourn this hearing. The next
7 Council meeting is scheduled for November 28,
8 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Marie has indicated that
9 that's the date by which the Council anticipates
10 voting on the application. I'm going to prepare
11 my Hearing Officer Report, provide it to Marie
12 and Michelle in advance of that time. And so,
13 you can expect that that will be the date and
14 time which your application will be voted on.

15 The Council's website is nycremsco.org.
16 Stay tuned to that or contact Michelle or Marie
17 to figure out if there's some change with that.
18 But I anticipate a decision on this being made
19 November 28th.

20 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Okay.

21 PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER TIMOTHY

22 HANNIGAN, ESQ.: Very good. Thank you very much.

23 CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES POINTER: Thank
24 you.

25 MARIE DIGLIO: Thank you all.

1 Lexitas states that the preceding transcript was
2 created by one of its employees using standard
3 electronic transcription equipment and is a true
4 and accurate record of the audio on the provided
5 media to the best of that employee's ability.
6 The media from which we worked was provided to
7 us. We can make no statement as to its
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10 Attested to by:

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Sonya Ledanski Hyde

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