

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

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RIDGEWOOD VAC

PUBLIC FACT-FINDING HEARING ON DETERMINATION OF
PUBLIC NEED FOR AN EXPANSION OF AN EXITING
AMBULANCE SERVICE IN QUEENS COUNTY, NYC

VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

March 2, 2021

6:06 p.m.

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REPORTED BY:

Charissa Hromadka

2 A P P E A R A N C E S (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE):
3 TIM HANNIGAN, Hearing Officer
4 MARIE C. DIGLIO, REMSCO Executive Director of
Operations
5 JOE RANERI, REMSCO Information System Data Coordinator
6 SCOTT ORLANSKI, Downstate New York Ambulance
Association
7
8 JAMES DOWNEY, NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue
Association, Inc., District 4
9
10 S P E A K E R S (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE):
11 KEVIN MAHONEY, Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps
12 HONORABLE JOSEPH ADDABBO, JR., NYS Senator,
District 15
13
14 HONORABLE JENIFER RAJKUMAR, NYS Assembly Member,
District 38
15 HONORABLE ROBERT F. HOLDEN, NY Councilmember,
District 30
16
17 KENICHI WILSON, Chair, Queens Community Board #9
18
19 ANDREW COMBS, Director, Woodhaven Richmond Hill
Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
20 RYAN GUNNING, Former Chief, Glendale Volunteer
Ambulance Corps, Inc.
21
22 LOU GRECO, Vice-Chair, District #4, NYS Volunteer
Ambulance & Rescue Association
23 DARYL MAZLISH, President, Jamaica Estates Holliswood
South Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps
24
25 EDWARD WENDELL, Woodhaven Historical Society
MARTIN COLBERG, Woodhaven Business Improvement District

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S P E A K E R S (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE):

STEVEN FORTE, Woodhaven Residents' Block Association

VANCE BARBOUR, Community Member

CHRISTOPHER DeLUCA, Chief, Lindenwood VAC

JEFFREY P. REISNER, Esq., Attorney for Forest Hills VAC

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MS. DIGLIO: Good evening everyone.

This is the public hearing for the expansion CON for Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This is being held by The Regional EMS council of New York City. Our hearing officer this evening is Mr. Tim Hannigan. He will be running the meeting tonight. We have Charissa -- I'm sorry, I can't pronounce your last name. Charissa is our stenographer, so if you speak, if you are called upon to speak, make sure you identify yourself, your name and what organization you are with so that she can properly take the stenographic record. With that, I will hand this over to our hearing officer.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you, Marie. Good evening everyone. Welcome to this virtual public hearing. The proceeding will now come to order. The time is 6:06 p.m. This proceeding, as many of you know, is a public hearing in the matter of the application of the

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2 Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
3 which seeks to expand its certificate of
4 need to include the communities of
5 Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens
6 within the boundaries of the 102nd
7 Precinct in Queens and Community Board
8 number 9.

9 My name is Tim Hannigan. I'm an
10 attorney from Delmar, New York. I'm
11 serving as the hearing officer for this
12 hearing in accordance with New York State
13 Department of Health Policy Statement
14 06-06. As hearing officer, I will
15 moderate this proceeding and ensure that
16 the hearing process follows generally
17 accepted procedures. Candidly I will tell
18 you at the time 6:06 was crafted, I'm sure
19 it was not anticipated that we would all
20 be doing this remotely so we will follow
21 generally accepted Zoom and COVID
22 procedures for purposes of the hearing.

23 Following this hearing, I will prepare
24 a report setting forth findings of fact
25 for The Regional Emergency Medical

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2 Services Council of New York City and its
3 Ambulance Committee. This hearing is
4 being held by The Regional Emergency
5 Medical Services Council of New York City
6 pursuant to Article 30 of the New York
7 State Public Health law and is being
8 conducted in accordance with Policy
9 Statement 06-06.

10 The purpose of this hearing is to
11 provide a technical review and objective
12 evaluation of the applicant's statement of
13 need, as well as any other testimony
14 presented. It is the intent of this
15 process to obtain input from the general
16 public and all who may use, provide, pay
17 for or participate in the EMS system.

18 As Marie noted, the stenographic and
19 video record of this proceeding is being
20 made and also broadcast live
21 simultaneously to YouTube. The testimony
22 taken at this hearing as well as all
23 exhibits received will constitute the
24 record in this matter. We have several
25 members of The Regional Council's

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Ambulance Committee present this evening.

I ask if you are present, just wave so the applicant can see there are multiple members present here on screen. Good evening all ambulance council members.

All testimony and presentations by either the applicant, any persons in support or any person in opposition should be directed to this committee. Any questions that the applicant has or the speaker has should be directed to this committee or to me. The committee members can raise questions individually during the presentation either by the applicant or any members of the public whether in support or in opposition and the committee members are also invited to confer or collectively direct questions to the applicant or a particular speaker as needed.

To support the pending application, the applicant bares the burden of proof for demonstration of public need. Public need is defined in Policy Statement 06-06

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2 as the demonstrative absence, reduced
3 availability or an inadequate level of
4 care in ambulance or emergency medical
5 service available to a geographical area
6 which is not readily correctable through
7 the reallocation or improvement of
8 existing resources.

9 In this case, the application was
10 deemed complete on January 25, 2021. As
11 the mayor of housekeeping, the redacted
12 application redacted for personal
13 identifying information of officers and
14 directors of the applicant has been marked
15 and it is incorporated in this proceeding
16 as Exhibit 1.

17 A couple of the legal notice of public
18 hearing, which was published prior to this
19 date, together with supporting affidavit
20 and notice of the application made by
21 registered or certified mail by The
22 Regional Council to the chief executive
23 officers of all general hospitals,
24 ambulance services and municipalities
25 operating within the same county or

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2 counties or where the applicant seeks to
3 operate has been marked as Exhibit 2.
4 The letter of fitness and competency
5 from the Department of Health attesting to
6 the applicant's fitness and competency to
7 operate the propose of service remains
8 pending. That determination, when final,
9 will be incorporated into this proceeding
10 as Exhibit 3.
11 I note that the applicant as recently
12 as last year, last March, I believe it was
13 2019, was found fit and competent by the
14 Department of Health, but their review
15 with respect to this application is not
16 yet complete, but will be incorporated.
17 Again, that will be Exhibit 3.
18 The timeline prepared by Marie Diglio
19 entitled account of events is incorporated
20 into this proceeding as Exhibit 4. The
21 applicant will share a PowerPoint
22 presentation this evening. That
23 presentation, which was transmitted to The
24 Regional Council and to me prior to the
25 public hearing is received and will be

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2 incorporated into the proceeding as
3 Exhibit 5.

4 The memorandum and Exhibits A through
5 J transmitted by Attorney Jeffrey Reisner
6 on behalf of Forest Hills Volunteer
7 Ambulance Corps was received by The
8 Regional Council and myself prior to the
9 time of the public hearing. It is
10 received and it will be incorporated into
11 this proceeding as Exhibit 6.

12 For matters of housekeeping and
13 generally how it's going to go here, we
14 will commence with a presentation by Kevin
15 Mahoney, a representative for the
16 applicant. Mr. Mahoney is here and
17 present. Mr. Mahoney, if you want to wave
18 and let everybody know that it's you and
19 you can hear us. Excellent.

20 Once Mr. Mahoney finishes his
21 presentation on behalf of the applicant,
22 the floor will be open to those
23 individuals who preregistered with Marie
24 to speak. Depending upon the number of
25 people we have, we have a list of about 15

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or so, at this time I won't cap in terms of time, the amount of time someone has to speak. If it looks like we are going to be going on to 10:00 tonight, I will shorten that a bit and reserve the opportunity to do so, but at this time, I ask that persons direct their comments solely to the issue of public need, which is the only question before the council and the Ambulance Committee and focus their presentation on that question.

At the conclusion of the public forum, the applicant, Mr. Mahoney, will be afforded the opportunity if he chooses for additional time for the limited purpose of rebuttal. Such time is for the limited purpose of contradicting or disproving statements or submissions offered by persons opposing the application. And the time allotted for rebuttal and the subject matter for rebuttal, Mr. Mahoney, is designed to be limited solely for you to respond to arguments made in opposition to the application.

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I will now call the names of the individuals who are registered to speak. At the time I call a particular speaker up to speak during the public hearing comment, I will also state the name of the person who is next in line to speak, so you can prepare your virtual background, get your Air Pods ready or get whatever you need to do in order to participate, and I ask that the on deck speaker please be prepared at the time that the speaker before you concludes.

I will now recite the names of the speakers in the order in which they are to participate. First, Kevin Mahoney, on behalf of the applicant. Then we will go to Edward Wendell from the Woodhaven Historical Society. He will be followed by the Honorable Joseph Addabbo, Jr.; followed by the Honorable Jenifer Rajkumar; she will be followed by the Honorable Robert Holden; he will be followed by the Honorable Eric Ulrich. Mr. Ulrich submitted a written statement

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in lieu of the testimony this evening.

His written statement will be received by the council and the hearing officer will be incorporated into this proceeding as though he was here in person tonight.

We will then hear from Kenichi Wilson, Chair, Queens Community Board #9. Then Andrew Combs, Director of Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps; then Joe Campisi, President of Middle Village Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Ryan Gunning, Former Chief, Glendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Lou Greco, Vice Chair, District 4 New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association; Daryl Mazlish, President, Jamaica Estates Holliswood South Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Antoine Robinson, Commanding Officer; James Pointer, Chief of Operations Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Martin Colberg, Woodhaven Business Improvement District; Steven Fort, Woodhaven Residents' Block Association; Vance Barbour, Community

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2 Member; Christopher DeLuca, Chief,
3 Lindenwood VAC. Mr. DeLuca has noted that
4 his testimony is intended to be in
5 opposition and finally we will conclude
6 with Jeffrey Reisner, attorney for Forest
7 Hills VAC. Mr. Reisner has also indicated
8 his comments will be offered in
9 opposition.

10 Is there anyone else's names that I
11 did not read off that wishes to speak
12 tonight?

13 Seeing none, we will begin. If there
14 is, please --

15 MR. RANERI: I have to give them the
16 ability to unmute themselves.

17 Participants, I have given you the
18 ability to unmute yourselves. If you wish
19 to speak, you may unmute yourself now and
20 declare.

21 MR. MAHONEY: Mr. Raneri, are you
22 going to be able to put up the
23 PowerPoint or am I going to be able to
24 put it up?

25 MR. RANERI: Yes. At the time when

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2 you are ready to present, I will make
3 you a co-host, Kevin, and at that time
4 you will be able to do a screen share.

5 MR. MAHONEY: Thank you, sir.

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
7 Mr. Raneri, I'm hearing none as far as
8 other persons who wish to speak, so we
9 will proceed.

10 Charissa, I have the list of speakers
11 and the names and pronunciations and
12 spellings, so I will send those to you
13 post hearing for your inclusion into the
14 transcript.

15 Mr. Mahoney, hearing none, I will
16 allow you to proceed with the presentation
17 on behalf of the applicant Ridgewood
18 Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

19 MR. MAHONEY: Thank you, sir.

20 Joe, when you are ready, I will be
21 able to share it.

22 MS. DIGLIO: I just set you up as a
23 co-host.

24 MR. MAHONEY: Thank you. Can you
25 see just the PowerPoint?

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2 MR. RANERI: So on our screens we
3 are able to see both you as well as the
4 PowerPoint, at least I am.

5 MR. MAHONEY: Is it just the
6 PowerPoint or do you see the slides on
7 the side also?

8 MR. RANERI: We see the PowerPoint
9 and the slides, but now you are in
10 presentation mode.

11 MR. MAHONEY: Good evening. I would
12 like to thank everyone for attending and
13 participating at this evening's public
14 hearing for the Ridgewood Volunteer
15 Ambulance Corps. I would especially
16 like to thank the Hearing Officer
17 Hannigan, the Ambulance Committee
18 members and staff of the New York City
19 Regional EMS Council who is able to
20 facilitate this process, along with
21 being busy with all the COVID
22 initiatives going on.

23 We believe our application has covered
24 all bases required to demonstrate the
25 obvious public need for an expansion.

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Tonight I intend to summarize our application. Utilizing a short PowerPoint so the members of The Regional EMS Council can make an informed decision for what is best for the region. I intend to keep our testimony short and request that all of our speakers only provide testimony that lasts about 3 minutes and 52 seconds or less. We understand everyone's time is precious.

Tonight we take another step forward to revitalizing the way community based volunteer ambulance organizations need to do business in our region. Tonight we are here to expand our services into the Woodhaven Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens communities, an area that was previously served by the Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

This expansion areas geopolitical boundaries are within Community Board 9. To continue the spirit of transparency through this process, our intention is only to regain the territory that was

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2 previously served by the Woodhaven
3 Richmond Hill VAC. Having been through
4 two transfer of operating territories in
5 the last two years, we are aware that the
6 New York State Department of Health
7 requests territories in our region be
8 defined and co-terminus by geopolitical
9 boundaries. This has been defined by
10 using New York City Community Boards or
11 NYPD precinct boundaries. We have 0
12 intention on serving any area outside of
13 what Woodhaven Richmond Hill VAC used to
14 serve. The New York City REMSCO under New
15 York State Department of Health Policy
16 Statement 06-06 has the ability to work
17 with the New York State Department of
18 Health to adjust or clarify the boundaries
19 as needed to meet our goal.

20 The Regional Volunteer Ambulance
21 Corps is organized as a 501(c)(3)
22 Not-for-profit organization in New York
23 State since 1974. In 2018, RVAC was able
24 to start the process of merging operations
25 with our neighboring Volunteer Ambulance

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Corps. We executed the transfer of operating authority for the Middle Village Volunteer Ambulance Corps in January of 2019 and in May of 2019 we executed the transfer of operating authority from the Glendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

A merger of operations of volunteer ambulance services on this level was unheard of in the New York City region. It's no secret that the state of volunteerism throughout New York State is in trouble and that there are many agencies within the New York City region that are struggling today.

RVAC acknowledges the familiar status quo of isolated business mottos that have not been successful and have led to many agencies being dissolved or being barely active. It has become clear to RVAC since the execution of the operation of mergers, value was added through consolidation essentialization. This application is an intentional attempt to continue RVAC's strategic momentum to consolidate

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2 operations and organizational direction by
3 restoring community based ambulance
4 services to the communities of Woodhaven,
5 Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens.

6 In 2017, the New York City Regional
7 EMS Council petitioned the New York State
8 Department of Health to restore Woodhaven
9 VAC certificate to operate. The Regional
10 Council's request was to no avail, but it
11 did show that this region already believes
12 a community based volunteer ambulance
13 service is needed in the Woodhaven,
14 Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens areas.

15 In 2019, the Board of Directors of the
16 Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
17 Ambulance Corps entered into an agreement
18 with the Ridgewood VAC seeking to restore
19 a community based volunteer ambulance
20 service. The Woodhaven Richmond Hill VAC
21 recognized the vision and direction that
22 RVAC possessed having recently
23 successfully executed two mergers of
24 volunteer ambulance services.

25 If the deal wage had restored the

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certificate to operate, we would not be here today. We would simply just be submitted another transfer of operating authority. We are here today because this is the mechanism put into place by the New York State Department of Health for us to restore services back to those communities.

Despite the challenges with COVID and the pandemic, RVAC was able to leverage technology to communicate with all of the elected officials that represent the communities of Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens. We are proud to say that we have support from every single elected official that represents are proposed area, and you will hear from some of them tonight showing their support. I would like to thank them for their time for meeting with us and for being with us tonight.

Stressing to the point that we are a community based volunteer ambulance service, we believe it is not only

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important, but an obligation to involve as many stakeholders from the community in this process. We would like to thank Community Board 5, Community Board 9, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation, the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, the Woodhaven Cultural & Historical Society, the Woodhaven BID and the 104th Precinct Civilian Observation Patrol for all of the support. You will hear from some of these groups tonight.

Lastly, we pride ourselves with having a strong relationship with other EMS agencies and other community based Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We'd like to thank the New York State Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Association District 4 and District 18, the Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Jamaica Estates Holliswood South Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department & Ambulance

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2 Corps and the West Hamilton Beach Fire
3 Department & Ambulance. You will hear
4 from a few of them tonight and we thank
5 you for their support.

6 I would like to once again thank
7 everyone who is taking the time out of
8 their day and their life to be part of
9 this process. We look forward to continue
10 to work with the New York City Regional
11 EMS Council, New York State Department of
12 Health and the entire EMS community.
13 Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
15 you, Mr. Mahoney.

16 Do any members of the Ambulance
17 Committee or The Regional Council have any
18 questions for Mr. Mahoney? If you do so,
19 please indicate to Joe so he can unmute
20 you.

21 MR. RANERI: If you have any
22 questions, you can put up your hand on
23 the raised hand function in the
24 application. Nobody's hands are raised
25 at this time.

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HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:

Mr. Mahoney, I have a few questions for you. With respect to the projected call volume that you indicated on Form 3777, you indicated that you anticipate there being 1,200 total calls, 1,000 emergency and 200 nonemergency. Can you discuss with the committee what the basis was for that call volume, whether it was obtained from Woodhaven Richmond Hill or elsewhere and then why you anticipate that number of calls going forward?

MR. MAHONEY: It was a number formulated based off of the activity of the ambulance corps of what we previously did, putting out the additional ambulance and responding based on the volunteers availability. Based off of the organizational history, we estimated that amount. Obviously anybody would want to be able to respond to as many calls as possible and be open all the time, but just based off our past activity.

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HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With respect to the number of resources you have now that you listed four on the application. Are you able to respond and fully be operational in this area with the existing resources that your agency has on hand or would you need to acquire further resources in order to successfully deliver the service in this area?

MR. MAHONEY: We currently own four ambulances. Three are in-service. Once this application is approved, we have a fourth ambulance we will put in-service just for this area only.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: So you would have one dedicated resource for this particular area to which you seek expansion? Okay.

MR. MAHONEY: Yes. Very similar to when each ambulance corps operated independently they had one ambulance, now we are just operationally under one and we have one ambulance that are going

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2 to service each of those areas.

3 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: The one
4 ambulance that you indicated, that's
5 included in the four total, correct,
6 that you listed?

7 MR. MAHONEY: Correct, sir.

8 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: That
9 would be a 24-hour resource for this
10 area?

11 MR. MAHONEY: We generally operate
12 24 hours, seven days a week depending on
13 volunteer availability.

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I also
15 wanted to ask a question regarding The
16 New York State Department of Health you
17 referenced this was the DOH mechanism
18 for restoring service in the area. Did
19 the Department of Health discuss
20 transfer of operating authority with you
21 or direct you that you had to apply
22 through this avenue in order to obtain
23 an operating certificate?

24 MR. MAHONEY: There was a multitude
25 of events with the previous

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2 administration with the Woodhaven
3 Richmond Hill VAC in which a certificate
4 of need was revoked and The Regional
5 Council did request and petition to
6 state to reissue it and the Department
7 of Health at that time did not reissue
8 it, and since then, you know, the
9 corporation of the Woodhaven Richmond
10 Hill VAC has entered into a binding
11 agreement with us and one of the parts
12 of the agreement is to reapply to
13 restore ambulance services in those
14 communities.

15 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: So an
16 effort was made by your agency to
17 basically allow the existing certificate
18 of operating authority to remain intact,
19 to be transferred to you. DOH said no
20 and your alternative was apply for an
21 expansion; is that correct?

22 MR. MAHONEY: Negative. We weren't
23 involved early on in the process. There
24 were other entities and other people
25 trying to help Woodhaven, which didn't

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2 have a positive result so -- and once
3 they saw what we were doing with the
4 other ambulance corps, they saw the
5 positive nature of the stuff we were
6 doing and was actually working, they sat
7 down and met with us. It was already
8 the petition from The Regional Council
9 to restore the ambulance certificate was
10 already sent up and it wasn't restored.
11 So we entered into an agreement after
12 that had happened, so it wasn't
13 synonymous.

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
15 good. That's all the questions I have
16 for you, Mr. Mahoney.

17 Anything else from either members of
18 the Ambulance Committee or the Council at
19 large?

20 MR. DOWNEY: Jim Downey. I have a
21 question.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Go ahead,
23 Mr. Downey.

24 MR. DOWNEY: In the application
25 package from Ridgewood Volunteer

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2 Ambulance Corps, there's a map on page
3 22 of 72 of the application package.
4 Does that accurately reflect the areas
5 that you want to acquire? I believe in
6 the lower left-hand corner of the map it
7 covers part of Ozone Park. Is the map
8 accurate?

9 MR. MAHONEY: The map is accurate
10 with the verbiage that we used that's
11 required by 06-06, which requires
12 geopolitical boundaries to be used. If
13 we wouldn't submit our application
14 following the requirements of 06-06,
15 then our application would have been
16 deemed incomplete because of a
17 technicality.

18 As I mentioned in my opening
19 statement, The Regional Council and the
20 Ambulance Committee has the authority of
21 the 06-06 to go and change that to make
22 sure we don't have overlapping
23 territories, which I know you are going to
24 refer to, Jim, with Lindenwood.

25 MR. DOWNEY: That is correct. So

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2 the lower left-hand corner does include
3 Ozone Park in addition to Woodhaven,
4 Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens?

5 MR. MAHONEY: Yes, and if this
6 region would like to adjust the map to
7 reflect the exact old service area of
8 the Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
9 Ambulance Corps, it is within their
10 purview to do that, but if we did not
11 submit our application following the
12 guidelines outlined in 06-06, then we
13 could have been deemed incomplete.

14 Like I mentioned, it is no intention
15 to overlap with the Lindenwood Volunteer
16 Ambulance Corps. We are just trying to
17 regain the area that the Woodhaven
18 Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps
19 used to provide service to. Does that
20 clarify everything for you, Mr. Downey?

21 MR. DOWNEY: It sort of clarifies
22 things, but it still leaves the overlap
23 in existence, which was never covered by
24 Woodhaven Richmond Hill VAC.

25 MR. MAHONEY: I think I just

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2 explained exactly why that's on there
3 because it's within the geopolitical
4 boundary of Community Board 9.

5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Are there
6 any other questions? Mr. Downey,
7 assuming yours was answered, are there
8 any other questions for the applicant at
9 this time?

10 Joe, I'm not seeing any on my mind.
11 Are you seeing any on yours?

12 MR. RANERI: No, I do not seeing any
13 on my end.

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With
15 that, we will close the portion of the
16 public hearing that is reserved for the
17 applicant's presentation and turn to the
18 public comment.

19 The first name on the list we will go
20 to is the Honorable Eric Ulrich. Is
21 Mr. Ulrich present?

22 MR. MAHONEY: Negative. I mentioned
23 to you before, sir, that he had a
24 scheduling conflict. I am going to
25 submit --

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2 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Correct.

3 I made note of that. You are correct.

4 The Honorable Robert Holden, is

5 Mr. Holden present?

6 MR. HOLDEN: Good evening everyone.

7 I'm Councilman Robert Holden and it's
8 great to see my colleagues, State
9 Senator Joe Addabbo and Assemblywoman
10 Rajkumar as well as all the civic and
11 community leaders at this hearing.

12 I'm also a member of the health
13 committee of the New York City Council, so
14 I'm here tonight to express my full
15 support for the Ridgewood Volunteer
16 Ambulance Corps expansion into the
17 Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens
18 area. There is a public need for
19 restoring a community based ambulance
20 service to this area. In fact, there is a
21 desperate need, especially in these days
22 of the pandemic. An ambulance response
23 time to most emergencies must be as fast
24 as possible. We all know that and there
25 is a growing senior population in the

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2 district. That must be served. It's
3 going to continue grow.

4 The Ridgewood VAC has been working
5 with the Board of Directors of the
6 Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
7 Ambulance Corps to reestablish their
8 services, as you heard. They have done
9 extensive outreach to the communities
10 affected and have met with elected
11 officials, civic leaders, BIDS and
12 associations. They are to be commended
13 for their outstanding work in serving most
14 of my district.

15 Ridgewood VAC has full support of the
16 civic associations in this area, which you
17 will hear from later in this hearing.
18 Ridgewood VAC has also been transparent
19 and has kept everyone in the community
20 updated throughout this lengthy process.
21 I don't want to go on too long because I
22 know there's a lot of speakers, but I
23 fully support their application to expand
24 to this area and will do everything
25 possible to see that and they also have my

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2 full support in funding also. Thank you
3 so much.
4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
5 Council Member Holden.
6 Do any members of the Ambulance
7 Committee or the Council at large have any
8 questions for Council Member Holden?
9 Seeing none.
10 Joe, any requests?
11 MR. RANERI: I do not see any hands
12 up and there are no questions on the
13 live stream.
14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
15 Councilman Holden.
16 We will next turn to Senator Addabbo.
17 Is Senator Addabbo on?
18 MR. ADDABBO: Yes. Good evening.
19 Thank you very much, Tim, and I want to
20 thank The Regional Council for allowing
21 me to speak tonight and, of course, for
22 their efforts throughout the year.
23 Thank you very much to council. I want
24 to say thank you to both applicants
25 because I am friends of both and both of

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Ridgewood and Forest Hills, I want to say thank you very much for the years of dedicated service. I appreciate what you have done in the community always being there, but I want to be clear, I have the unique position of representing both, Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps and so I am fans of both.

Yes, the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps has gotten a letter of support from me and we had a great conversation last week. I wrote that letter before I knew and understood that Forest Hills was also applying for the same area and so I told my friends at Ridgewood, to be fair, I am not going to play sides here. I support both. I think both are credible. I think can do a fine job, so I'm going to be neutral for the most part in supporting both, but my message here is clear to the council, I truly appreciate entertaining the idea and really hope it's the endgame

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that the areas of Ridgewood and Woodhaven and Kew Gardens get the services that they need and certainly deserve from either of these Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

You know, I've lived in Ozone Park all my life and I know these areas well. We are talking about wood framed homes, older, we are talking about mixed use homes and these areas are certainly deserving and need this service. So whether we are talking about, you know, the year 2015 fire on 90th Street in Woodhaven, you know, where a row of wood homes caught on fire and the ambulance corps was needed there or whether we are talking about the most recent Valentine's Day fire in Richmond Hill on Jamaica Avenue. The bottom line is, these areas -- and Kew Gardens included -- are in dire need of service. So, again, I do appreciate the councils entertaining both applications and do hope the residents of these areas that I represent are served well by either of these credible

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2 longstanding, certainly deserving
3 ambulance corps.

4 Again, to my friends at Ridgewood
5 Volunteer Ambulance Corps and to my
6 friends at Forest Hills Volunteer
7 Ambulance Corps, I look forward to working
8 with you both and I wish you all the best.
9 Thank you very much to the council.

10 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
11 you, Senator.

12 Do any members of the Ambulance
13 Committee or the Council at large have any
14 question for Senator Addabbo?

15 Hearing none or seeing none.

16 Joe, any indications on your end?

17 MR. RANERI: Negative. There are no
18 hands raised and nobody has put anything
19 in the chat.

20 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I'm the
21 hearing officer, but Joe is in charge.
22 If Joe says no, we are good to move on.

23 Senator, thank you very much.

24 We will next turn to Assembly Member
25 Rajkumar.

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MS. RAJKUMAR: Thank you. Good evening to the New York City Regional EMS Council and I am here to speak in support of the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps RVAC and its plan to expand volunteer EMS services to Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens. I'm the New York State assemblywoman for District 38 here in South Queens and my district covers the areas of RVAC's application, including Ridgewood, Woodhaven and Richmond Hill.

I live and work in Woodhaven where my district office is and I can tell you that Woodhaven is underserved. Woodhaven would benefit from the robust volunteer EMS services. That is why I was so pleased to learn of RVAC's application. Richmond Hill has also been historically underserved and it has been the commitment of my office to ensure that Richmond Hill has the support and resources that it needs.

RVAC and its spirit of volunteerism

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would be a most welcomed addition to the neighborhood. I have met with the leadership of RVAC, Kevin Mahoney and his team, on a few occasions and their connection to the community is evident and impressive. The leadership of RVAC is passionate, dynamic and civic minded.

In these difficult times as we merge from the COVID-19 pandemic, that is exactly the type of civic minded spirit that I support for my district and that we need as a community. The RVAC leadership has demonstrated to me that it understands the ethos of neighbor helping neighbor and I am my brother's keeper.

My own office has helped see the community through the COVID-19 pandemic through support services in five languages, food drives to hunger and other government services for my constituents. I will welcome RVAC into Woodhaven and Richmond Hill and know that they will be a valuable community partner. I am pleased to register my support for the Ridgewood

1 REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21
2 Volunteer Ambulance Corps expansion.
3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
5 Assembly Member Rajkumar.

6 Do any members of the Ambulance
7 Committee or the Council have any
8 questions for Assembly Member Rajkumar. I
9 see none.

10 Joe, any questions indicated for the
11 assemblywoman?

12 MR. RANERI: Negative.

13 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
14 very much.

15 We will next turn to -- I believe next
16 up is Lou Greco. Is Mr. Greco on, Vice
17 Chair District 4?

18 MR. GRECO: Yes, sir.

19 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: You may
20 proceed, sir.

21 MR. GRECO: My name is Louis Greco.
22 I am the Vice Chair of NYSVARA District
23 4. It's the opinion of District 4 that
24 the community's referred to on the
25 application would be best served by the

1 REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21
2 presence of a volunteer ambulance
3 service. The applicant has reached out
4 to the district leadership and asked for
5 guidance on their application. It is
6 the opinion of the district leadership
7 that the applicant has demonstrated the
8 need for community based ambulance
9 service in their application. That's
10 all we have. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
12 you.

13 Do any members of the Ambulance
14 Committee or the Council have any
15 questions for Mr. Greco?

16 Seeing none.

17 Joe, any comments on your end?

18 MR. RANERI: Negative.

19 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
20 proceed with Mr. Edward Wendell,
21 Woodhaven Historical Society. Mr.
22 Wendell, are you on?

23 MR. WENDELL: Yes, I am. I am right
24 here.

25 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: You have

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2 the floor, sir.

3 MR. WENDELL: Thank you and thank
4 you to The Regional Council for
5 affording me this opportunity to discuss
6 the application to expand service into
7 Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew
8 Gardens. I'm the president of the
9 Woodhaven Cultural Historical Society.
10 For a number of years I was president of
11 the Woodhaven Residents' Block
12 Association and through that I had a
13 very close relationship with the
14 Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
15 Ambulance Corps, which served our
16 community for over 50 years. They were
17 a staple in our community, integrated
18 with the Block Association, Historical
19 Society, the local electives, our senior
20 center. It was beyond just being a
21 building and a physical presence here.
22 They were a very close relationship with
23 everyone we had and the community that
24 ended in the aftermath of the collapse
25 of the building behind.

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Beyond the practical need for additional coverage and additional services in our community, it has always been our view that the local ambulance corps serve as ambassadors to the community for all the EMTs and ambulance corps. And more than once over the past year, it has been noted amongst different civic groups and leadership that this past year, you know, locally would have looked a lot different had we had a fully serviced ambulance corps working here in our community.

In advance of this meeting, I did have the pleasure of meeting with the leadership of the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps and we spoke about our past history in relationship with the ambulance corps here in Woodhaven and discussed any areas of potential concern we might have, and we left these meetings very comfortable and highly confident that the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps would serve as vibrant partners to the

1 REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21
2 Woodhaven community and we very
3 enthusiastically support their application
4 to expand their service into this area.
5 Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
7 you, Mr. Wendell.

8 Do any members of the Ambulance
9 Committee or the Council have any
10 questions for Mr. Wendell? Seeing none.

11 Joe, any questions indicated on your
12 end?

13 MR. RANERI: Negative.

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
15 Mr. Wendell.

16 We will next go to Kenichi Wilson,
17 Chair, Queens Community Board #9.

18 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry, I don't have
19 my notes. I didn't think I was speaking
20 until after 7:00, so I will try to do
21 this on the fly.

22 Good evening everyone. My name is
23 Mr. Kenichi Wilson. I'm chairperson of
24 Community Board 9 and just to make a note,
25 I'm actually a past member of the

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2 Woodhaven ambulance corps, Woodhaven
3 Richmond Hill ambulance corps. Basically
4 my statement consists of Community Board 9
5 supports the Volunteer Ambulance Corps
6 application for The Regional Medical
7 Service Council of New York City, Inc. and
8 the New York State Department of Health
9 for approval to expand its ability to
10 operate basic life support on a volunteer
11 EMS level to the adjacent communities of
12 Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Kew Gardens,
13 Queens.

14 The proposed expansion includes areas
15 within Community Board 9 and within the
16 confines of the New York City Police
17 Department of the 102 Precinct and part of
18 106. Community Board 9 acknowledges that
19 this proposed area expansion will provide
20 better community based EMS resources. As
21 the Ridgewood ambulance corps as an
22 excellent service record since their
23 inception of 1974. The proposed expansion
24 goal to restore the type of service of
25 community based volunteer ambulance

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2 service that is currently missing and
3 absent due to the void left by the
4 Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
5 Ambulance Corps. The special services
6 provided by Ridgewood VAC are provided to
7 all individuals regardless of their
8 ability to pay. This is a testament to
9 their goal of being socially equitable.

10 We are regularly active participants
11 in EMS response, nonemergency assistance,
12 as well as local events and community
13 outreach, often providing much needed
14 emergency care and training, which cannot
15 be replaced by any other municipal and/or
16 commercial hospital systems. Therefore,
17 Community Board 9 endorses the Ridgewood
18 Volunteer Ambulance Corps application and
19 request that they receive requisite
20 approval and to expand their operation as
21 indicated. Thank you in advance.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
23 you, Mr. Wilson.

24 Do any members of the Ambulance
25 Committee or The Regional Council have any

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2 questions for Mr. Wilson?

3 I see none.

4 Joe, any on your end?

5 MR. RANERI: Negative.

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:

7 Mr. Wilson, I want to ask you a
8 question. You are someone of an
9 interesting person to speak this evening
10 because you are affiliated with the
11 prior service and you're also a leader
12 in the community there, so obviously the
13 question before our committee this
14 evening and for the REMSCO eventually on
15 March 23rd is, does public need exist in
16 that area?

17 MR. WILSON: Oh, absolutely.

18 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: My
19 questions to you are on public need.
20 Well, first, does it exist right now?

21 MR. WILSON: Absolutely. It has
22 been a big hole. I mean, I wear three
23 different hats. I was a past member. I
24 recall the services that we provided.
25 I'm a resident that misses the services

1 REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21
2 and sees the holes there and the need as
3 a community leader.

4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: As far as
5 the holes or the needs that exist now,
6 can you describe what you see as a
7 community leader? Is it delayed
8 response times, is it unavailable
9 ambulance? What are you seeing now with
10 respect to need in that area?

11 MR. WILSON: It's all above, but
12 it's also -- you know, in areas like
13 this sometimes -- how would you say it?
14 Some people resist calling city services
15 wondering if they are going to be caught
16 up with some sort of a large bill or not
17 knowing if they are going to get the
18 services provided. A lot of times a
19 Volunteer Ambulance Corps or any
20 volunteer service that's in the area
21 that goes out and supports local
22 community events, you get to meet them,
23 you get to feel comfortable, you feel
24 comfortable in knowing these individuals
25 are volunteers in your neighborhood, so

1 REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21
2 when there is a time of need, you feel
3 free reaching out to them for their
4 services and you feel comfortable with
5 it.

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
7 you, Mr. Wilson.

8 Any questions remain for Mr. Wilson by
9 any members of the Ambulance Committee or
10 the Council? Seeing none.

11 Joe, if you see none, we will move
12 right along to Mr. Andrew Combs, Director
13 of Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
14 Ambulance Corps.

15 Mr. Combs, the floor is yours.

16 MR. COMBS: Hi. My name is Andrew
17 Combs. I'm presently the Chairman of
18 the Board of Directors for the Woodhaven
19 Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
20 Inc. and I'm here today to express my
21 support for Ridgewood VAC's application
22 to regain the area for Woodhaven
23 Richmond Hill. Even keeps saying
24 Richmond Hill, but it includes South
25 Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens. The

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reason that I support this application wholeheartedly is that the -- as Kevin had indicated after it became obvious that we would not be able to recapture the certificate of need from the State following the series of unfortunate events that brought us to the point where it came up for losing it that, you know, a decision really had to be made as to what way to proceed, and it became obvious that partnering up with Ridgewood, as Middle Village had done, as Glendale had done, that phrase that none of us are as strong as all of us are together came into play. It was their interest and our relationship with them, our close relationship with MID VAC and with Glendale VAC including cross membership during this time that we felt that our future, if we are to ever able to return to servicing the area that we had serviced for over 50 years, and the fact that a series of unfortunate events saw us lose our

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ability to operate in that area doesn't
negate the history we had there and all
the good that came from it and that good
continues to exist to this day only it
requires our returned presence there.

We have entered into an agreement to
join with them as one unified organization
of the four ambulance corps that after
losing so much because of these
unfortunate events, the building collapsed
and so forth, that we had no funding until
we actually sold the property that we had.

That money now is held in escrow by
the State and that represents all the
communities money that we previously
serviced and so those monies, you know,
are with us and they should not be
parceled out. I think that we should be
able to move forward in whole, so to
speak, to regain those areas that we
previously serviced so that we can
continue to do so, you now, under the
auspicious of and in conjunction with this
unified corps that we have joined up with,

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2 and have been active participants in for
3 the last almost two years now. And I
4 don't know what more to add to that, but I
5 will be happy to answer any questions
6 people may have.

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: On that,
8 Mr. Combs, we will start with the
9 Ambulance Committee and any members of
10 the Council that have any questions for
11 Mr. Combs regarding his statements this
12 evening?

13 Joe, I'm seeing none. Are you seeing
14 any on your end?

15 MR. RANERI: Negative.

16 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
17 Mr. Combs, I am just going to ask in
18 follow up to the questions I asked to
19 Mr. Wilson, you were present and heard
20 what Mr. Wilson said, is that fair?

21 MR. COMBS: Yes.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Do you
23 agree with this statements as far as
24 when your service lost its operating
25 certificate that a need was created in

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the area that was served by --

MR. COMBS: I agree with Mr. Wilson in his assessment. You know, I have been a member since 1972, so I have almost 50 years of service with the organization and there was -- I would say that the need has always existed, which is what we were able to help address in our being absent from there and not being able to participant, you know, just sort of exacerbates that, and as he indicated on so many different levels all of which speak to need in terms of not just emergency services, but there are other things particular to the area, community event participation, a track for education, training people who want to go into that profession and so forth.

So I think that, yes, the need certainly does exist there, which is the basis for volunteer ambulance services within the municipality of New York City operate. There are multiple reasons why

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2 community based volunteer ambulance
3 services have a tremendous input into the
4 community.

5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
6 you. Any follow-up questions from any
7 members of the Committee or the Council?
8 Seeing none.

9 Joe, any questions indicated on your
10 end?

11 MR. RANERI: No.

12 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
13 well. We will move onto Mr. Joe
14 Campisi, President, Middle Village
15 Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

16 MR. MAHONEY: Mr. Hannigan,
17 Mr. Campisi has a scheduled conflict
18 last minute. I will submit his
19 testimony to you to be part of the
20 record.

21 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
22 Mr. Campisi previously did indicate that
23 he would speak this evening and that he
24 would speak in support. I will accept a
25 written statement from him in that

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2 regard.

3 Mr. Mahoney, what is your timeline as
4 far as submitting that to Marie and I?

5 MR. MAHONEY: I can send it to you
6 right when we are done.

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
8 good. Thanks.

9 With that, we will move to Mr. Ryan
10 Gunning, Former Chief, Glendale Volunteer
11 Ambulance Corps.

12 Mr. Gunning, are you here?

13 MR. GUNNING: Hi. Can you hear me?

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes, I
15 can.

16 MR. GUNNING: Good evening
17 everybody. I want to thank the Council
18 for allowing me to speak. For those who
19 don't know me, I am the past president
20 chief for the Glendale Volunteer
21 Ambulance Corps. I've had the honor of
22 also serving as the Chairman for New
23 York State Volunteer & Ambulance Rescue
24 Association for District 4 and I was
25 also a proud member of this board,

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REMSCO, many years in the past. So I've had the honor to serve most of the ambulance corps in the City and as the president of Ridgewood -- Glendale rather, we worked hand in hand with the Woodhaven Volunteer Ambulance Corps as. Andy Combs had stated, we had a joint membership, we allowed their members at one time to ride our ambulance. We had a mutual aid agreement with them, so we were helping them cover their area. They would help me cover ours. We've had an extensive relationship in the past. There definitely is a need, public need, in that area to continue an ambulance service.

Unfortunately, they had the collapse of their building and in the aftermath of their building, we were able to work together and continue that service as long as we could. With the merge of the Glendale, Ridgewood, Middle Village and hopefully Woodhaven into the expansion, that will continue to help serve those

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2 communities. I will submit a written
3 report as well. I apologize, I'm stuck at
4 work and did not have time to prepare, but
5 I do support the merge and there is
6 definitely a public need.

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
8 you, Mr. Gunning.

9 Any questions for Mr. Gunning from
10 either the Ambulance Committee or The
11 Regional Council members?

12 Seeing none.

13 Joe, any indicated on your end?

14 MR. RANERI: No, none on this end.

15 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
16 good.

17 We will go to Daryl Mazlish,
18 President, Jamaica Estates Holliswood
19 South Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

20 MR. MAHONEY: Mr. Hannigan, I have
21 testimony here. He's teaching an EMT
22 class right now.

23 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: That's a
24 good excuse. That's all right.

25 MR. MAHONEY: If you want I can read

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2 it or I can just make it part of the
3 record to save everybody some time.

4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: If you
5 would like to submit it, we will
6 incorporate it as part of the record
7 similar to the statement of Mr. Ulrich
8 as well as the statement of Mr. Campisi.
9 You can submit that to Marie and I.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. MAHONEY: No problem.

12 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
13 next go to Antoine Robinson.

14 MS. DIGLIO: I don't think he's
15 here.

16 MR. RANERI: He is not in the room.

17 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: What I
18 will do is mark his name and when we get
19 to the end, I will call again. If he's
20 present, I will let him speak at that
21 time and, if not, then we will move on.

22 We will next go to James Pointer,
23 Chief of Operations, Bedford Stuyvesant
24 Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

25 MR. POINTER: Hello, I'm here.

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2 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Good
3 evening. Thank you.

4 MR. POINTER: Sorry, I can't have
5 video right now, but I am here to fully
6 support the Ridgewood Volunteer
7 Ambulance Corps and their expansion into
8 the Woodhaven Richmond Hill area. I
9 have been a member of the Bedford
10 Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps for
11 approximately 21 years and I have had
12 the pleasure to work with the Ridgewood
13 volunteer ambulance services on numerous
14 occasions. They show nothing but our
15 courtesy and respect to the community
16 and they also provide a magnificent
17 service, so I am definitely in support
18 of it for their expansion into the
19 Woodhaven members.

20 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
21 you, Mr. Pointer.

22 Do any members of the Committee or the
23 Council have questions for Mr. Pointer?

24 Seeing none.

25 Joe, any indicated on your end?

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2 MR. RANERI: Negative.

3 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
4 you, Mr. Pointer.

5 Next, Martin Colberg, Woodhaven
6 Business Improvement District.

7 MR. COLBERG: Good evening everyone.
8 First, thank you for the time to be able
9 to speak for the Woodhaven BID in
10 tremendous support for the Ridgewood
11 Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We believe
12 there's a huge need in the community for
13 the an ambulance corps, especially since
14 the service was provided years ago, a
15 very important service to the community.

16 Along the business district there's at
17 least somewhere between a little over 200
18 storefronts on the avenue that span
19 between one area of Jamaica to another,
20 one area of Jamaica to another, one area
21 of Woodhaven to another. So that has a
22 lot of foot traffic, a lot of customers
23 that are going up and down the avenue, a
24 lot of residents that live on the avenue.

25 With the change in our demographics,

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you know, in our City, we have also seen an increase of residents in our community, so having a Volunteer Ambulance Corps will definitely, definitely bring a huge improvement into our community. Again, having one in the past, we still have a lot of community members who knows what it feels like to have that special relationship with a Volunteer Ambulance Corps, you know, where you feel there's more of a one on one connection, where you feel more comfortable about getting the service provided from a Volunteer Ambulance Corps. So, again, the Woodhaven BID definitely supports the expansion of Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps into our area and hopefully we look forward to having that coverage.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Colberg.

Do any members of the Ambulance Committee or the Council have any questions for Mr. Colberg?

MR. RANERI: None are coming to me.

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2 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
3 you. You beat me to it.

4 Mr. Colberg, I was going to ask a
5 follow-up question. You began your
6 comments by stating that there's a huge
7 need that exists now. Was there any
8 difference that you noticed between the
9 time that the former Woodhaven Richmond
10 Hill operated there and then ceased
11 operations through now that indicates that
12 there is a public need that exists
13 presently in that area?

14 MR. COLBERG: Yes, and, you know, I
15 can definitely see the difference as
16 well because in the past, I was the past
17 president of the Woodhaven Residents'
18 Block Association and I'm actively still
19 a board member. So I'm very involved
20 with residents and, you know, counseling
21 communication with them where we could
22 see the difference when we did have the
23 Volunteer Ambulance Corps. As far as
24 response time and, again, the level of
25 comfort for some of our residents to be

1 REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21
2 able to have that close connection with
3 the individuals of the Volunteer
4 Ambulance Corps coming to service them.

5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Have
6 there been any discussions at the Block
7 Association or among businesses that you
8 serve where the topic of ambulance
9 service or availability of ambulance
10 service has arisen?

11 MR. COLBERG: I know for community
12 conversations with the Block Association
13 there have. As far as with the BID, I'm
14 really not involved in the day-to-day
15 too much. Our executive director is
16 more involved in the day-to-day, but
17 definitely throughout the Block
18 Association, which I don't speak for,
19 Tayzon (phonetic) can speak more on
20 that, but we definitely have always had
21 conversations about and we are always
22 speaking about the Woodhaven Volunteer
23 Ambulance Corps how we wish it was still
24 around, you know, how can we actively
25 work with anyone, you know, especially

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2 Ridgewood because they have been so
3 transparent, you know, and having
4 conversations with the Board of
5 Directors for Woodhaven ambulance corps,
6 you know, to see how we can get to the
7 point where, you know, this can be
8 comeback to our community. Again, being
9 that this community has expanded in
10 volume of the amount of residents that
11 we have. There's a big important for
12 it, a big need.

13 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
14 you, Mr. Colberg.

15 Any other questions for Mr. Colberg?
16 Seeing none.

17 Joe, any on your side?

18 MR. RANERI: No.

19 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
20 very much, Mr. Colberg.

21 We will next go to Steven Forte from
22 Woodhaven Residents' Block Association.

23 Joe, is Mr. Forte on? I'm not seeing
24 him.

25 MR. RANERI: I'm not seeing him in

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2 the room.

3 We have Scott Orlanski who is a
4 committee member who would like to submit
5 a question.

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: He can do
7 that.

8 MR. ORLANSKI: Am I allowed to speak
9 now?

10 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Absolutel
11 y, Mr. Orlanski, go ahead.

12 MR. ORLANSKI: First of all, call me
13 Scott and good evening. Thank you. I
14 am actually going to direct the question
15 at you, Hearing Officer Hannigan, to see
16 if it's a permissible question and if
17 it's not, I take no offense in you
18 telling me it should not be answered.

19 We all know what's before us and we
20 are going to hear statements in support
21 and statements against all evening long,
22 which are very, very important to
23 determine public need. I guess the
24 question that we have before us is -- and
25 if permitted to ask the question, I will

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ask the same question tonight that I will ask on Thursday night of the other quorum, but I'm going to assume -- and maybe I'm wrong -- that we are going to hear statements in support and against both tonight and Thursday night. I guess ultimately the question comes down to as part of public need is -- and am I permitted to ask from Mr. Mahoney or others in support -- what does Ridgewood bring to covering the area that another service would not be able to bring? Mr. Hannigan, I don't know if that's a permissible question.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I think that's fair. If you want to ask -- I'm not sure how many of the prior speakers are present. If you want to ask it globally and they can indicate to Joe whether they'd like to answer.

MR. ORLANSKI: I'll ask Mr. Mahoney who speaks in support who is the application presenter ask the question. Again, with the understanding that I'm

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2 just trying to get -- and I will ask the
3 same question on Thursday night, what do
4 you bring to the table that Forest Hills
5 doesn't and what does Forest Hills bring
6 to the table that you don't?

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With
8 respect to the question for Mr. Mahoney,
9 what I would do is we will move through
10 the public hearing session first, so if
11 anybody in the public hearing comment
12 section wants to answer, I think we ask
13 them and then when we get to the
14 rebuttal time, you can pose that to
15 Mr. Mahoney to start rebuttal time, if
16 needed, and he can comment on anything
17 else. If that's all right with you,
18 sir?

19 MR. ORLANSKI: Sure.

20 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With
21 respect to any members of the public
22 that either already spoke or would like
23 to speak, I know we had several
24 community leadership present, does
25 anybody care to comment on

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2 Mr. Orlanski's regarding what does
3 Ridgewood bring as opposed to another
4 entity?

5 MR. BARBOUR: This is Vance Barbour.
6 can you hear me?

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes, I
8 can. Thank you.

9 MR. BARBOUR: Okay. The only thing
10 I would mention and correct me, Kevin,
11 and others on the line if I'm wrong, is
12 I do believe in the order of the
13 existing Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance
14 Corps, we have Andrew Combs who is very
15 familiar with our community and has been
16 on the board of the Woodhaven Richmond
17 Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps in the
18 past and we also have Sean Graves who is
19 quite familiar with the community,
20 there's a lot of nuances to the
21 community. The existing board, what's
22 left of it, the nonoperational board is
23 part -- it's a part of the fabric of the
24 community, so that might be something
25 that doesn't have dollar value to it,

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2 but it has tangible value. I will
3 reserve my other comments for when it's
4 my turn.

5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
6 you, Mr. Barbour.

7 Anyone else care to respond to
8 Mr. Orlanski's question?

9 MR. GUNNING: If I may continue on
10 what was just said. As past president
11 of GVAC, we had a working relationship
12 with Woodhaven and it's not to say
13 another service couldn't offer a
14 valuable service, I just feel that with
15 the current membership of Ridgewood and
16 the support that we have and the member
17 that it has that already has a
18 foundation in the community of
19 Woodhaven, I feel that they have a
20 better opportunity to serve that
21 community in that public area, in that
22 need.

23 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: For the
24 transcript purposes, that was Ryan
25 Gunning that just spoke.

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Would anyone else like to comment on
Mr. Orlanski's question?

Mr. Combs?

MR. COMBS: I believe that the
Ridgewood VAC is one of the best able to
provide that service and I say that
recognizing that, yeah, any certified
ambulance service in a theoretical sense
can provide ambulance service to any
other given area. The issue here is
that this proposal, this unified group
of ambulance corps who have banded
together to provide service is a strong
one, that it has the support of all of
the people who are intimately involved
in the areas of which we previously
worked, that we are proposing to move
forward to hopefully regain, expand
service back into the area previously
serviced by the ambulance corps, to not
have it parceled out or broken apart,
but that it move forward in its
totality. That I think of all the
organizations that would best be able

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to, you know, honor the legacy of the past and to help in provision of service in the future is our organization and, as I said before, the monies that have been set aside, which come from all of the communities we previously served, you know, will remain with us and be put to use hopefully when this is approved, and so without disparaging the abilities of any other neighboring ambulance corps, I think this application and our support of it are joining with them and the strength of the application of the people that indicated their support for this, make it the best choice. Not the only choice, but the best choice.

MR. ORLANSKI: Thank you. I think my question was answered.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Has Mr. Forte signed on yet?

MR. RANERI: No, he has not.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
Mr. Barbour, you are up now, Vance Barbour, if you would like to speak, a

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2 community member.

3 MR. BARBOUR: When I registered, I
4 also made it known that I am a director
5 and board member of the Woodhaven
6 Residents' Block Association who works
7 with Steve Forte in that capacity and
8 Martin Colberg so I can sort of talk on
9 behalf of the Block Association.

10 I would just point out that the
11 existing Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
12 Ambulance Corps has been a part of our
13 community as its been mentioned before
14 well over 50 years. I mean, it's not some
15 isolated part. They participate in all of
16 the community events that we have done. I
17 have been a member of this community
18 Woodhaven for 34 years. I have been a
19 member of the Block Association for 16
20 years, I was a former president of the
21 Block Association and I currently am a
22 director and in all my time, we worked
23 with the Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
24 Ambulance Corps.

25 It's my feeling that I trust the

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people who some of them are still left from that organization. I trust them to make the right decision in choosing the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps. As far as need goes, yes, there is definitely a need. This community has been hit hard by COVID. The numbers support that.

I will also mention from a statistical standpoint, in the last 20 years, the number of people in our community has more than doubled. We have issues related to overcrowding, illegal conversions, things that the City has not really addressed, but there are people here that really need to be tended to.

I can say personally on the night that one of our dear law enforcement officers was shot and killed in the 102nd Precinct, that night I had a medical emergency where I needed to call an ambulance to take me to the hospital. With all of the ambulances going to the site on Atlantic Avenue and 102nd Street, I had to wait and my life was in jeopardy at that time. So

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is there a need for that? Yes, there is.

I would also say that in addition to the goodwill and the financial help that the community has given to the former Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps, we have also made them part of our family. So whomever we work with and whomever you choose, and I hope you do choose the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps, they will be part of the fabric of that community going forward.

As the former Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps company did, they would take their ambulance and be part of the community in all of our events. They would be there working and supporting the community as a whole. I hope you make the right choice. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Barbour.

Are there any questions from the Ambulance Committee or members of The Regional Council for Mr. Barbour?

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2 Seeing none.

3 Joe, any questions indicated on your
4 end?

5 MR. RANERI: Negative.

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
7 next go to Antoine Robinson.

8 Mr. Robinson?

9 MR. ROBINSON: I'm here gentlemen.
10 Sorry for that.

11 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Good
12 evening, Mr. Robinson. No problem. You
13 can proceed, sir.

14 MR. ROBINSON: We have been at the
15 Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance
16 Corps working with Ridgewood for a
17 number of years and we all know as
18 volunteers it has been very difficult
19 just to maintain our organization, not
20 just Bed-Stuy, but all over the city.

21 If Ridgewood is looking to expand,
22 that means they can provide a lot more
23 care for the citizens of this city, a lot
24 better than a lot of volunteer ambulance
25 services and not to mention, we already

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2 know Kevin has tons of EMTs that he has
3 graduated through his organization, and
4 it's so hard to maintain experienced
5 personnel just to volunteer and they are
6 able to do so.

7 There's no reason why we should even
8 stop it. I don't even know why we have a
9 debate about it or why we even have to
10 come to a committee whereas all of our
11 volunteer organizations should just all
12 come together because we all have the same
13 purpose. So there is no way possible that
14 my organization whatever hinderance in
15 expansion of saving lives of the people of
16 this community, of this city or even of
17 this nation.

18 I mean, we can beat a dead horse,
19 gentlemen, but it should be more unified.
20 We are all working together to achieve the
21 same goal.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
23 you, Mr. Robinson.

24 Do any members of the Ambulance
25 Committee have any questions or by

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2 extension, member of The Regional Council
3 have any questions for Mr. Robinson?
4 I'm seeing none.
5 Joe, any indicated from your seat?
6 MR. RANERI: Negative.
7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
8 proceed with the presentation by
9 Mr. Christopher DeLuca, Chief,
10 Lindenwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps.
11 MR. DeLUCA: Good evening everybody.
12 Can everybody hear me?
13 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes.
14 Thank you.
15 MR. DeLUCA: As, which was addressed
16 in Mr. Mahoney's opening remarked, our
17 own point of contention is the map
18 they've submitted with this application
19 overlaps a significant chunk of our area
20 that we already serve. It's not about a
21 board of war. We've had mutual aid
22 agreements with the prior existing
23 Woodhaven management in the past and we
24 generally work well with all our
25 neighbors, but an application that's

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2 going to expand into an area that we
3 already serve is problematic for my
4 organization and that's our point of
5 contention.

6 If this can't be resolved or
7 clarified, and I don't mean way at the end
8 of the process where we are not sure we
9 clarified, my organization has no choice
10 but to oppose this application.

11 As far as need, we are already serving
12 part of that area if that map is going to
13 stand. Of course if the map is revised,
14 there's no issue on our behalf and we
15 would be willing to work with whoever the
16 Council selects on this subject as we have
17 in the past.

18 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
19 you, Mr. DeLuca.

20 Are there any questions from the
21 Ambulance Committee or the Council for
22 Mr. DeLuca?

23 I'm seeing none.

24 MR. RANERI: No questions on my
25 mind.

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2 MR. MAHONEY: Mr. Hannigan, I have a
3 question.

4 MR. COMBS: I had a question also.

5 MR. RANERI: Hold on. Allow the
6 hearing officer to acknowledge --

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:

8 Mr. Mahoney, I will ask the questions.
9 The applicant has an opportunity to
10 respond in rebuttal, so you don't have
11 an opportunity to ask questions of
12 members of the public at this time. You
13 can respond thereafter.

14 Mr. Combs, similarly because you are a
15 member of the public as opposed to a
16 sitting member of the Council or
17 Committee, you can't ask questions.
18 Mr. Mahoney can respond to any comments
19 made.

20 With that said, do any members of the
21 Ambulance Committee or The Regional
22 Council have any questions for Mr. DeLuca?

23 Hearing none.

24 Mr. DeLuca, I did have one question
25 for you. The subject of the map as you

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2 indicated was stated earlier by
3 Mr. Downey, Mr. Mahoney provided an
4 explanation that stated that they do not
5 intend to encroach upon or have operative
6 authority for that area indicated, did his
7 answer to Mr. Downey's question resolve
8 your issue or is that the thrust of your
9 question and objection?

10 MR. DeLUCA: Well, as long as that's
11 followed through on, yes, it does
12 absolutely resolve our issue, but
13 promises or discussions about it will
14 not resolve our issue. As I said,
15 unless that's clarified and we're given
16 assurances of that clarification, then
17 we'll continue with our opposition. If
18 the clarification stands and it's
19 resolved, we have no other reason to
20 oppose this application.

21 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
22 good. Mr. DeLuca, if I may, with
23 respect to the area indicated on the map
24 that does not include response area or
25 operating authority that overlaps yours,

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2 so every area on the map excluding the
3 area that your agency has operating at
4 the right for, do you have any opinion
5 as to whether a public need exists in
6 the area excluding the area that your
7 agency presently covers?

8 MR. DeLUCA: As far as a need, yes,
9 a need does exist and one ambulance may
10 not be enough. You should even consider
11 multiple. It is an area, it has a
12 growing population as most of the guests
13 have already stated and I can only
14 answer in the affirmative to that.

15 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you
16 very much.

17 Do any members of the Ambulance
18 Committee or the Council have any
19 questions in follow up to Mr. DeLuca?

20 Seeing none.

21 MR. RANERI: No questions on my end.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
23 you, Joe.

24 I will proceed with comments from
25 Attorney Jeffrey Reisner for Forest Hills

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2 Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

3 Mr. Reisner, are you on? Yes, I see
4 him here.

5 MS. DIGLIO: Jeff, are you muted?

6 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes, he
7 is.

8 MS. DIGLIO: Joe, can you unmute
9 Mr. Reisner?

10 MR. RANERI: I am sending him things
11 asking him to unmute his microphone, but
12 I cannot unmute him for him.

13 Jeff, if you are having issues with
14 getting yourself unmuted, you can send me
15 messages in a chat as well and we will
16 provide assistance.

17 MS. DIGLIO: He can also call in by
18 phone if he's having problems.

19 MR. RANERI: Marie, check in with
20 Jeff and Tim can follow back with him as
21 the following speaker.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: At this
23 time, Mr. Reisner is the last -- as luck
24 would have it -- there he is.

25 MR. REISNER: I got it. Sorry, the

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2 Windows 10 gremlins are attacking my
3 laptop. I couldn't get my mouse to
4 actually go to the mute button. I do
5 apologize. I'm probably going to lose
6 the display again, but I have maintained
7 audio, so I have been able to hear
8 everything you've said. Hopefully you
9 will be able to maintain hearing what
10 I'm saying and be able to see me.

11 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: If not,
12 we can hear you loud and clear now.

13 MR. REISNER: First I would like to
14 start by saying thank you to the members
15 of the Committee and the members of the
16 Council for being here tonight. I owe a
17 huge thanks to Marie who doesn't get
18 enough credit for all goes through in
19 putting all these together.

20 I'm here today on behalf of Forest
21 Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps who as
22 many of you know has filed a competing
23 application with Ridgewood Volunteer
24 Ambulance Corps for this same territory
25 and I have submitted a written opposition

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and I will defer to that in large part,
but I do want to bring a couple of points
out in a supplement to that submission.

Most notably something that needs to
be accounted for is what the hearing
officer -- and thank you for doing this
Mr. Hannigan -- the Committee and the
Council are able to consider in
determining whether the areas, in fact, a
need. The definition of need was read at
the outset of the hearing and in making a
determination as to whether that need
exists, there are a series of variables
that are up for consideration.

The two that fit here are, A, quality
of the applicant's existing of service and
two -- I'm sorry, B, other local factors
and I think that everything in my written
submission, along with everything I'm
going to say tonight, applies to those two
variables and, therefore, is appropriate.
Despite the fact that at the time 06-06
was drafted I don't believe this type of
situation was envisioned.

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That being said, as you all know, whether there is a need is the progeny of Article 30 and 06-06 and issues with respect to NYCRR Part 800 come into play as well when we are talking about quality of applicant's existing services and other local factors.

In this particular instance I submit, do include violations of not-for-profit corporation law sections 904 and 907 and those two sections of the not-for-profit corporation law go to mergers of not-for-profit corporations, and we have heard on numerous occasions from the applicant itself this evening, a long with a number of other organizations, including the now defunct Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps which had its certificate revoked, that the applicant has merged. However, I have conducted an exhaustive search, as exhaustive as I can, of the Attorney General's records on this issue, which are made public, and I find no Attorney General approval as required

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2 by Section 907 of not-for-profit
3 corporation law and no certificate of
4 merger having been filed as required by
5 section 904 of the not-for-profit law.
6 That's the case with respect to Glendale,
7 that's the case with respect to Middle
8 Village and it's the case with respect to
9 Woodhaven Richmond Hill.

10 Therefore, I submit that all of those
11 mergers were, in fact, illegal. I think
12 the argument could certainly be made that
13 every single action that has been taken by
14 Ridgewood in respect to those mergers is
15 void, and I think that the Council needs
16 to look at things like this because if
17 you've got an agency that is taking action
18 like that, doing things illegally and is
19 for all intents and purposes likely to be
20 subjected to Department of Health and/or
21 Attorney General scrutiny and potentially
22 enforcement proceedings and potentially
23 revocation of a certificate for doing
24 illegal activities, it would be imprudent
25 to grant such an agency an expansion of

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territory. Granting an agency that is going to be staring down the barrel of things like that in expansion of territories just signing the citizenry of those areas up to the leftward out their ambulance, once again, and I don't think that that's prudent for the Council and I would submit that the council should take a close look at that, and there enlies the rub because the applicant has not submitted this memorandum of understanding that's been mentioned at least three times that allegedly has with Woodhaven Richmond Hill. That has not been submitted as part of the application and I don't know how the Committee, the Council or the hearing officer can make an informed decision when these crucial facts are left out of the application.

I have submitted as an exhibit to my written opposition, a copy of the Woodhaven Richmond Hills most recently filed CHAR500 form, which shows they have \$650,000 in escrow per their agreement

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2 with the Attorney General's Office. I
3 note that page 16 of the application
4 references the memorandum of understanding
5 and that the applicant is getting
6 financial commitments and contributions
7 from Woodhaven Richmond Hill. Woodhaven
8 Richmond Hill's own Mr. Combs said that
9 they have no money aside from the sale of
10 that property, and they are somehow making
11 financial contributions when they don't
12 have a certificate of need rendering them
13 able to run an ambulance.

14 I don't know how they are generating
15 revenue and I think that's a big red flag
16 and it's a big deal that's been left out
17 of the application that the Council cannot
18 consider. I think that it would be
19 highly, highly imprudent for the Council
20 to grant this application based on those
21 factors.

22 What's more, I've submitted evidence
23 showing that there is at least one truck
24 running in violation of PART 800 because
25 it's got an expired registration and I've

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submitted evidence that there is at least one individual in the leadership position within the applicant who is committing a crime of misrepresenting themselves as EMT in violation of the penal law.

This goes to fitness and competency. I understand this is an expansion, not an initial application and fitness and competency statutorily isn't necessarily in play. However, I would submit that there is likely a reason that the department's recommendation letter on fitness and competency has not come down. I do know, because I'm the one who filed it, that a complaint has been filed alleging that these problems should be investigated by the department and then enforcement proceedings should be brought at a minimum.

I would submit that the hearing officer's report, the Ambulance Committee's finding and motion and the REMSCO's recommendations all should be to deny this application. There is no need

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2 that my client Forest Hills cannot meet.
3 That's all I have.
4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
5 you, Mr. Reisner.
6 Are there any questions from the
7 Ambulance Committee or Council members for
8 Mr. Reisner?
9 MR. RANERI: Nothing on my end, Tim.
10 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thanks,
11 Joe.
12 Mr. Reisner, I want to follow up on
13 your comments. You indicated there -- you
14 mentioned various -- there's expired
15 registration, there's alleged
16 misrepresentation that someone is an EMT.
17 With respect to that representation that
18 someone has affirmatively statement they
19 are a certified EMT and they are not, is
20 that one of the officers or directors of
21 the applicant that has made that
22 indication?
23 MR. REISNER: It's a captain. I do
24 not believe it's an officer or a
25 director.

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HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With respect to the items that you've raised relative for not-for-profit law compliance, do you have anything -- and I noted that your submission is an exhibit that will be incorporated in this proceeding by reference, but do you have anything in writing from the Attorney General or the Secretary of State's Office relative to the corporate status of the applicant Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps whether it's inactive or hasn't filed something or is under investigation, under suspension, anything with respect to its not-for-profit compliance at this time?

MR. REISNER: Nothing with respect to the fact that it's under investigation or anything like that. I have submitted as exhibits to my submission, a recitation of a communication I had with the Attorney General's Office via an e-mail, along with screenshots of each of the

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2 undertakings with each -- each entities
3 filing records from the Charity Bureau's
4 website.

5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Backing
6 up more broadly, is it your contention
7 that these factors, the items of
8 objection that you've indicated, sound
9 in the applicant's fitness and
10 competency?

11 MR. MAHONEY: Broadly, yes. I think
12 it also goes to quality of service and
13 quality of service being stated broadly,
14 the quality of the service, meaning the
15 ambulance service or the company as a
16 whole and frankly its ability to
17 continue to operate without facing
18 enforcement and potentially revocation
19 proceedings.

20 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With
21 respect to -- you indicated that you
22 filed a complaint against the applicant
23 relative to the information that you
24 found; is that right?

25 MR. REISNER: Yes.

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2 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Do you
3 know whether, at this time, the
4 Department of Health has commenced any
5 investigation into the applicant at this
6 conjuncture?

7 MR. REISNER: I've been advised that
8 they are looking into it, but that they
9 have got a lot bigger fish to fry at
10 this point and they were not able to get
11 anything to you or to me in time for
12 tonight's hearing.

13 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Did they
14 make you aware of any statement of
15 deficiency in existence or anything like
16 that that's been transmitted to the
17 applicant at this time?

18 MR. REISNER: No, I don't believe
19 anything has been transmitted to the
20 applicant.

21 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: What was
22 the date that the complaint was filed
23 with the Department of Health?

24 MR. REISNER: It's Exhibit A to my
25 submission. It was February 1st and it

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2 was just via e-mailed to the Operations
3 Division of the bureau.

4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Was that
5 in Albany or was that on the regional
6 route?

7 MR. REISNER: Albany.

8 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Those are
9 all the questions I have for you, sir.

10 Let me ask the Committee again and the
11 Council, do any members of the Ambulance
12 Committee or The Regional Council have any
13 questions for Attorney Reisner?

14 I'm seeing none.

15 Joe, any on your end?

16 MR. RANERI: No questions from the
17 Committee or Council.

18 The applicant did submit a request to
19 ask a question. I leave it to your
20 discretion.

21 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: So there
22 will be no questions from the Council or
23 the Committee.

24 Marie, do you have a comment?

25 MS. DIGLIO: Marie Diglio, I just

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2 wanted to state for the record that all
3 the exhibits from Mr. Reisner were
4 e-mailed to the hearing officer and to
5 all the members of The Regional Council.
6 That's it, just for their information.

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
8 good. Thank you, Marie.

9 Mr. Reisner, I have no more questions
10 for you and neither do any members of the
11 Committee or the Council.

12 With that, I will close the public
13 comment portion of the hearing.

14 Mr. Mahoney, this is the period of
15 time for rebuttal on behalf of the
16 applicant. The purpose of this time is to
17 rebut any statements made in opposition to
18 your application.

19 As a preliminary matter, I will note
20 that I told Mr. Orlanski that I will allow
21 you to respond to his question that he
22 posed earlier in the proceeding at this
23 time.

24 Mr. Orlanski, if you are still on and
25 you want to pose that question to

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2 Mr. Mahoney and then allow him the
3 opportunity to speak to rebuttal issues, I
4 would allow that at this time.

5 MR. ORLANSKI: Absolutely. Thank
6 you. I apologize for being in the car.
7 I just needed to go to another meeting.
8 My question was just from a practical
9 perspective without disparaging the
10 other applicant for the same space or
11 anybody else, I am just wondering if you
12 could elaborate on why your organization
13 is more or better suited to take over
14 the area that is in question?

15 MR. MAHONEY: As described in my
16 opening statement, this has been a
17 collaborative effort to merge operations
18 amongst four different agencies and work
19 together as a team to create one agency
20 and have resources being pushed out
21 together.

22 With that being said, I will say if
23 you review our application, I believe our
24 application speaks on its own merit it.
25 The community support we have, the

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2 government support we have and it shows
3 the public need with everybody who came on
4 today.

5 MR. ORLANSKI: Thank you for your
6 answer.

7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
8 you, Mr. Orlanski.

9 Mr. Mahoney, if you now want to
10 comment with respect to any opposition
11 that was voiced in opposition to your
12 application. I note that opposition was
13 received from Mr. Christopher DeLuca, the
14 Chief of Lindenwood, relative to the map,
15 and more recently by Attorney Jeff Reisner
16 with respect to certain not-for-profit and
17 other compliance or fitness and competency
18 issues.

19 MR. MAHONEY: Yes. First, I just
20 have a question for Mr. DeLuca from
21 Lindenwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps. I
22 know you touched on this Hearing Officer
23 Hannigan, but I just wanted to clarify
24 again that the only contention is the
25 overlapping of areas and you have no

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2 other problem with any other part of our
3 application?

4 MR. DeLUCA: That is correct,
5 Mr. Mahoney. That's correct. As we
6 stated earlier, this is our only real
7 point of contention. Everything else is
8 about a need and filling this void is
9 quite important, as everybody who spoke
10 tonight mentioned. I have no argument
11 with that.

12 I do have a couple of concerns
13 separately, which we can discuss
14 otherwise. It just surprised me that
15 every time Mr. Combs spoke tonight, it was
16 about unlocking money. Otherwise,
17 everything else, a need is a need and I
18 have no contention with that.

19 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: All
20 right. Thank you.

21 Mr. Mahoney, go right ahead.

22 MR. MAHONEY: Just to put it on the
23 record, we are not against having a
24 clarification of the territory to make
25 sure that what we are expanding into

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2 does not overlap with Mr. DeLuca and
3 Lindenwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps.
4 Just to put that on the record.

5 Just to continue to address everybody
6 today, New York State Policy Statement
7 06-06, page 5, paragraph 6, specifically
8 states the complete application is the
9 basis for the demonstration of need. In
10 the public hearing the applicant may be
11 restricted to corroborating and/or
12 explaining the data therein.

13 There was new information that was
14 presented today about 15 minutes before
15 this hearing started. I was able to look
16 through some of it and, quite frankly,
17 some of this stuff is quite misleading
18 just to paint a picture that really
19 doesn't exist. There has been talks about
20 an MOU. We have a binding legal agreement
21 memorandum of understanding with the
22 Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
23 Ambulance Corps. Part of that agreement
24 requires us to expand our services to try
25 to regain and restore community based

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2 Volunteer Ambulance Services to the
3 Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens
4 areas.

5 I was able to review a little bit of
6 the opposition and on page 4, Mr. Reisner,
7 Exhibit J, which is actually shared as
8 Exhibit I on the drive, you make an
9 accusation that one of our officers is
10 wearing an illegal patch. I'm going to
11 hold this up here. Can you tell me what
12 it says on this patch here, Mr. Reisner,
13 from this picture?

14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: So,
15 Mr. Mahoney, hold on one second. At
16 this point, you are permitted to
17 respond. You cannot ask questions of
18 others. Yours is a presentation to the
19 Committee and the Council. You can ask
20 rhetorical questions, but I ask you to
21 do so cordially and I do not anticipate,
22 nor will I otherwise permit Mr. Reisner
23 to comment or question at this time.
24 This period of time is solely for you to
25 respond to what occurred during the

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2 context of the public hearing to
3 reinforce points you stated regarding
4 public need and respond to any
5 opposition that was made.

6 MR. MAHONEY: With that being said,
7 once again, this hearing is about the
8 determination of public need, not
9 competency and fitness of the
10 organization. That's determined by the
11 New York State Department of Health. We
12 have, right now, no notice of
13 violations, no notice of any
14 investigations, no communications with
15 any authority that oversees Volunteer
16 Ambulance Corps, EMS agencies,
17 not-for-profit corporations at all. We
18 have no statement of deficiencies. So I
19 ask that Council to please follow the
20 guideline of 06-06 and make their
21 determination based off of our
22 application. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Do any
24 members of the Ambulance Committee or
25 The Regional Council have any final

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2 questions for Mr. Mahoney?

3 Joe, I'm not seeing any.

4 MR. RANERI: I do not see any
5 questions.

6 Final ask if any members of the
7 Committee or the Council have any
8 questions, you may unmute yourself and
9 express them or send them in the chat.

10 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Joe,
11 while we wait for that opportunity,
12 Mr. Mahoney, you mentioned something in
13 rebuttal regarding a binding MOU that
14 your organization has with Woodhaven
15 Richmond Hill. Has that been approved
16 by or reviewed or subject to approval by
17 the Attorney General's Office?

18 MR. MAHONEY: It's a binding
19 agreement between two corporations not
20 subject to approval by the Attorney
21 General's Office.

22 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
23 you.

24 Joe, questions indicated by Council or
25 Committee members?

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2 MR. RANERI: Negative.

3 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
4 good.

5 The time is now 7:45 p.m. The record
6 is now closed. There will be a transcript
7 made of this proceeding and I will prepare
8 my report and submit to the Ambulance
9 Committee. The Ambulance Committee will
10 meet and make a recommendation as to
11 Regional Council as to whether the
12 application for expansion should be
13 approved.

14 The next council meeting will be on
15 March 23, 2021, the Ambulance Committee
16 meeting and the Council meeting schedules
17 are located at The Regional Council's
18 website, nycremsco.org.

19 There will be no further business
20 before the Committee. I adjourn the
21 hearing and I thank all the members of the
22 public, including the elected officials
23 and community members as well, thank you
24 very much. Thanks to the applicant and
25 Attorney Reisner as well.

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MS. DIGLIO: Thank you very much for
everybody coming tonight and we look
forward to your report. Mr. Hannigan,
thank you for a nicely done public
hearing. We are actually done at a
reasonable time. Thank you.

(Time Noted: 7:45 p.m.)

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/02/21

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, CHARISSA HROMADKA, a shorthand reporter
and Notary Public within and for the State of
New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing transcript is a true and
accurate transcript of the original stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 2nd day of March 2021.



CHARISSA HROMADKA

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