



PHARA SOUFFRANT FORREST  
Assemblywoman 57<sup>th</sup> District  
Brooklyn, NY

THE ASSEMBLY STATE  
OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Task Force on New Americans  
  
COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Consumer Affairs and Protection  
Higher Education  
Health  
Insurance  
Social Services

October 18, 2023

Ms. Marie Diglio, Executive Director  
Regional EMS Council of NYC  
475 Riverside Drive – Suite 1929  
New York, NY 10115

Re: Statement for Public Hearing on October 24, 2023 – Determination of Public Need  
Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps Expansion Application

Dear Ms. Diglio:

Because I will be unable to attend the public hearing in person, I hereby submit the following statement in support of the application for expansion from Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC):

I serve in the NYS Assembly, representing District 57 in Brooklyn. My district covers portions of the Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights neighborhoods that are included in the proposed expansion area. As a lifelong resident of my district, and an advocate for improved access to health care, I am keenly aware of the public need in the proposed expansion area for the community-based volunteer ambulance service that BSVAC will provide. Current ambulance response times in the area are simply too long. BSVAC will not only address that need but will also provide training in life-saving skills, community health outreach, and EMS support at local events.

BSVAC provides its services to all individuals, without regard to ability to pay. This is extremely important for our families who are economically challenged. I am delighted to fully support BSVAC's application for expansion.

Sincerely,

Phara Souffrant Forrest  
NYS Assemblywoman, 57th District