

THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY



LATRICE M. WALKER MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY 55TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT KINGS COUNTY

Oct. 24, 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 <u>Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps Expansion Application</u>

Dear Ms. Diglio:

I am Latrice Walker, the duly elected representative of New York State's 55th Assembly District, which includes Brownsville and parts of East New York and Bedford-Stuyvesant. I regret that I'm not able to attend the public hearing, but I wanted to make sure that my voice was counted among those who may be communicating with your office about the expansion of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

The BSVAC has provided valuable emergency medical services and training in Bedford-Stuyvesant since 1998. Their expansion application seeks to broaden their coverage area to Crown Heights, East New York and Brownsville, allowing them to provide Basic Life Support volunteer EMS/ambulance services to the adjacent neighborhoods.

The expansion of the coverage area would help alleviate the burden on existing EMS resources available to the community and would, among other things, reduce ambulance response times.

The services provided by BSVAC are provided to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay, which is a testament to BSVAC's mission of "saving lives and changing lives." BSVAC is a regular active participant in EMS responses, non-emergency assistance, as well as local events and community outreach, providing much needed emergency care and training, which cannot be replicated by other municipal, commercial and hospital systems without the expenditure of considerable resources.

Respectfully, I request the full and fair consideration of the proposal by the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Services Corps. to expand their primary territory in accordance with any and all applicable laws, regulations, and statutes.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance as you deliberate this important matter. I can be reached at walkerl@nyassembly.gov or by calling my district office at (718) 342-1256.

Sincerely,

Latrice M. Walker, Esq.

Member of NYS Assembly – 55th District