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**THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CHARLES BARRON**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 42ND DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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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 my schedule will most likely not permit me to attend this public hearing in person, I would like to submit this statement in support of the application for expansion from Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC).

I represent New York City Council District 42, which includes portions of the East New York. I am familiar with the excellent service BSVAC provides to the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood and have been a consistent supporter of BSVAC's work over the years.

I am deeply concerned with inequities in access to health care and persistent racial disparities in health outcomes. The proposed expansion of BSVAC's operating territory offers an opportunity to help underserved neighborhoods. There is a public need for community volunteer ambulance service in the proposed expansion area and the expansion of BSVAC's service area will help alleviate the burdens on existing EMS resources available to the community, reducing ambulance response times. The services that BSVAC will provide in the proposed expansion area cannot be replicated by other municipal, commercial and hospital systems without expenditure of considerable resources.

BSVAC does much more than respond to emergencies. It also trains community residents in life-saving skills, provides emergency medical support for local events, and performs community outreach with health education and screening.

BSVAC's services are provided regardless of ability to pay; this is critical for the families in our community.

It is my pleasure to support BSVAC's application for expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Barron'.

Councilmember Charles Barron