



THE COUNCIL *of* THE CITY OF NEW YORK

October 18, 2023

Ms. Marie Diglio
Executive Director
Regional EMS Council of NYC
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1929
New York, NY 10115
SENT VIA EMAIL (maried@nycremsco.org)

Re: Determination of Public Need for Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC) Expansion Application

Dear Ms. Diglio:

I am writing today to ask you to support the expansion of the operating area for the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC) so this vital organization can provide its excellent community-based volunteer ambulance service to the neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Brownsville, and East New York.

BSVAC provides critical resources to constituents in part of my councilmanic district, which includes portions of the neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. These neighborhoods are among the most disinvested in Brooklyn and are home to large numbers of Black and brown older adults. Crown Heights has seen a [slight increase](#) in premature mortality over the past decade, and both neighborhoods have seen massive increases in the number of overdose deaths over the same period ([92.8% increase](#) in Crown Heights North and a [48.2% increase](#) in Bed-Stuy). Chronic ailments still plague a sizable percentage of residents, with [6.9%](#) of Crown Heights North residents and [11%](#) of Bedford-Stuyvesant residents living with diabetes. Simply put, these neighborhoods have extreme health needs that require greater resources and access to emergency care, and BSVAC is key to supporting these communities.

As a member of the Council's Committee on Health, I am committed to identifying ways to improve health outcomes for New Yorkers, especially our most marginalized. There is a clear need for community volunteer ambulance service in the proposed expansion area, most acutely in the Crown Heights portion of my district. The expansion of BSVAC's service area will help alleviate the burdens on existing EMS resources available to the community, reducing ambulance response times, in a manner that cannot be replicated by other municipal, commercial and hospital systems without expenditure of considerable resources.



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BSVAC does 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, which is critical for the families in our community.

As a result, I ask you to approve the expansion of the BSVAC's operating territory to include the neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Brownsville, and East New York.

If I can be of further assistance in connection with this vital initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me at District35@council.nyc.gov or 718-260-9191. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Hudson".

Crystal Hudson
New York City Council Member, District 35