



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Brenton Davis,
Erie County Executive

February 10, 2023

Municipal Officials, Fire and EMS Personnel:

I am aware of the attached letter sent to municipal officials by the Perry Hi-Way Hose Company, providing notice of their intent to no longer provide ambulance coverage on a mutual aid basis as of May 1, 2023.

Erie County Directors Jessica Horan-Kunco and John Grappy, Co-Chairs of the EMS / Fire Recruitment and Retention Committee have been addressing the crisis in emergency services in collaboration with emergency service providers and municipal officials since 2019. The Committee's efforts have included EMS scholarships and grant opportunities through county ARPA dollars (\$2.3 M), educational events for providers and municipal leaders, implementing best practices around regional emergency service delivery and launching a Tri-County Collaborative EMS Plan initiative. The committee meetings are held on a monthly basis, the second Tuesday of every month, and held at the Department of Public Safety at 2 PM. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 14. All are welcome to attend.

Today, my directors held a conference call with Dr. Aaron Rhone, Director, Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, providing an update on the state of emergency medical services in Erie County. Topics of conversation included, but were not limited to, the implementation of the Collaborative Emergency Medical Services Response Plan, 2022 call volume by provider, dropped call reports, out of service reports and mutual aid responses. Additionally, they discussed the negative impact a licensed EMS provider not providing mutual aid services would have on neighboring municipalities.

The Collaborative EMS Response Plan was implemented on May 1, 2022 to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of Emergency Medical Services throughout Erie County when any emergency service provider is unable to fulfill 24 hour / 7 Day a week coverage as directed by 28 Pa. Code § 1027.6. All of the licensed and non-licensed providers in Erie County adopted the plan. The plan is in the spirit of a collaborative effort to provide coordinated Emergency Medical Services Operations to the citizens and visitors of Erie County. We do not feel Perry Hi-Way Hose Company's approach is a long-term solution that addresses the crisis facing all of our communities. Failing to offer mutual aid ultimately places the citizens of Erie County at great risk in the event an EMS resource is unwilling to provide services in their greatest time of need.

In order to solve this EMS crisis, it is imperative that we are taking steps forward as an entire region to better protect our community and provide the best possible service we can. We cannot afford to step backwards, which only hurts our community further by not providing this lifesaving aid to our neighbors.

In the near future, we will be hosting another EMS / Fire and Municipal Leadership Seminar focusing on the crisis in emergency services and have extended an invitation to Dr. Aaron

Rhone to provide an informative update on the state of emergency medical services in the Commonwealth and specifically in our region.

Erie County Officials will provide an update on the Collaborative EMS Response Plan including sharing data statistics for calendar year 2022, and will lead the discussion on several initiatives taking place on a local or multi-municipal level addressing this crisis in emergency services from a collaborative, regional approach across the county *in support of our mission to ensure the highest quality of Emergency Services for all the residents of Erie County.*

We look forward to your participation at the upcoming leadership seminar, tentatively scheduled on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6 PM. An official announcement with the location of this event will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Davis", written in a cursive style.

Brenton Davis
Erie County Executive