



**Tompkins County Council of Governments**

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 09/26/24 01:00 PM

Department: Tompkins County Council of Governments

**ADOPTED**

DOC ID: 12761

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02**

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## **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as an Essential Service**

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                    |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Murray, Alternate, Town of Caroline                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Katelin Olson, Member, Town of Ulysses                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Gagnon, Groff, Howe, James, Lamb, Murray, Olson, Shapiro, Woodard |

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are a critically important emergency service, on par with and as crucial as law enforcement and fire protection, and

WHEREAS, EMS provides front-line healthcare to residents at their moment of most urgent need, and

WHEREAS, local governments are often best positioned to provide EMS services, particularly in rural parts of New York State (NYS) where for-profit entities cannot be sustained, and

WHEREAS, the adequate, consistent provision of EMS services continues to be under extreme and growing pressure due to high costs, inadequate reimbursement rates, and staffing shortages, among other factors, and

WHEREAS, the lack of a statewide standard for EMS services has yielded an inequitable patchwork system where care, cost, and response times vary tremendously and dangerously among localities, and

WHEREAS, New York State does not currently recognize EMS as an “essential service” in the same manner that law enforcement and fire protection are so recognized, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul and the New York State Senate are to be commended for their efforts to recognize EMS as an “essential service”, and

WHEREAS, Article XVII §3 of the New York State Constitution states that, *“The protection and promotion of the health of the inhabitants of the state are matters of public concern and provision therefor shall be made by the state and by such of its subdivisions and in such manner, and by such means as the legislature shall from time to time determine.”*, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) calls upon the New York State Assembly to recognize Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as an essential service and to take all necessary steps to ensure that this recognition is implemented state-wide,

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG believes mandatory coordination of EMS services at the County and inter-County level is the best method to ensure life-saving medical care can be reliably delivered to all residents of the State,

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG requests the Tompkins County Legislature join in advocating for EMS to be recognized as an essential service by New York State.