

RECOMMENDED BY: THE MAYOR

SUBMITTED BY: THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION NO. 991-21

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORK OF PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS, PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SUPERVISORS AND THE SACRIFICES THEY MAKE TO SERVE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THEIR ROLE AS FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Dispatchers and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisors serve 24 hours a day, seven days a week, just the same as firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical services workers; and

WHEREAS, the City 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Dispatchers and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisors make the same sacrifices in their personal lives as firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical services workers by leaving their families and the safety of their homes to handle the emergency 911 calls that save lives, protect property, and ensure the safety of our community and citizens during emergency events; and

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators courageously answer 911 emergency calls around-the-clock by which they are trained in emergency medical dispatch and provide potentially lifesaving instructions including CPR, instruct callers on staying safe in the most difficult situations, and help callers to safety during disasters, all while 911 Public Safety Dispatchers are promptly dispatching police officers, firefighters and emergency medical services to said emergency situations for the callers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators must handle the stress of answering over five-hundred thousand calls each year- one call after another; often being the voice on the other end of the line as citizens experience one of the most difficult day of their lives. They hear the overwhelming voices of devastation, listen to the cries for help, and provide support as citizens begin to process the loss of a loved one. Public Safety Telecommunicators handle all of this while Public Safety Dispatchers transmit information to emergency responders and monitor their whereabouts in the field to keep them safe; and

WHEREAS, 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Dispatchers and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisors often suffer from PTSD, although they are not physically on the scene, by answering multiple traumatic calls, banding successful radio incidents and communicating with people in distress, afraid or injured; and

WHEREAS, First Responder means a public safety employee whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency or accident to provide assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Dispatchers and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisors is not recognized by the Federal Government as a protected classification. In spite of all the training and certifications they must meet and maintain to work in these positions, the Federal Office of Management and Budget classifies this group of individuals as clerical staff, but we disagree; and

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham Communications department and Birmingham Emergency Communications District recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Dispatchers and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisors are far from just clerical staff and support the movement of 911 Saves Act to re-classify 911 Telecommunicators, Dispatchers and Dispatch Supervisors as first responders which unequivocally recognize the work they do.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

That from this day forward the City of Birmingham proclaim 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Dispatchers and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisors be elevated to the status of “First Responders.”

Adopted by the Council June 22, 2021 and Approved by the Mayor June 30, 2021



A CERTIFIED COPY
Lee Frazier, City Clerk
Birmingham, Al
Lee Frazier