

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF CLARENDON)

RESOLUTION 2024-02

**A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS IN
CLARENDON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND OTHER MATTERS
RELATING THERETO**

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers are part of the critical infrastructure of the Public Safety system and are trained and certified as Telecommunications Officers pursuant too the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy’s standards and training; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers are a critical role in emergency response as the first line of communication for persons needing law enforcement, fire, or medical response and are, very often, the first public safety employees handling the emergency; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers are a lifeline to law enforcement, fire, and medical responders in the field; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers deal with stressful situations, the need to make split-second decisions which affect the safety and well-being of both the public and field responders, and delivering emergency medical pre-arrival instructions daily; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers handle emergency and non-emergency calls with compassion, empathy, and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, information gathered and relayed by Public Safety Telecommunications Officers can mean the difference between life and death for callers and field responders, provides an integral basis for and effective public safety response and often can prevent an incident from worsening prior to the arrival of field responders; and

WHEREAS, with the advent of Next Generation 911, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers are now subject to graphic photographs, audio, and live streaming from scenes of emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers often suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, even though they are not on the scene, by answering multiple traumatic calls, handling radio incidents, and communicating with people in states of distress, fear, or injury; and


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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Clarendon County Council in a meeting duly assembled, that Clarendon County acknowledges Public Safety Telecommunications Officers are designated as First Responders in Clarendon County, South Carolina and shall be recognized as such in county policy and procedural considerations regarding First Responders.


ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 2024.

ATTEST:





Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to County Council



Dwight L. Stewart, Jr., Chairman
Clarendon County Council