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Mayor & Council ,

I wish to express my thanks to all members who understood the concerns involving a most serious issue of the lack of medical aid being provided to our residents over the past several years. The low number of responses to medical requests by Roselle Park First Aid Squad (RPFAS) was first brought to my attention several years ago and although RPFAS does not fall under my command or operational responsibilities I felt that as the top law enforcement official within this community I was obligated to research this situation to ensure the safety of all residents as well as all who visit this community..

As a result of this research I arranged a meeting with Roselle Park FAS Captain Glen Costello, Roselle Park Fire Chief Joe Signorello, CFO Kenneth Blum and Union County Public Safety Director Andrew Moran along with other county officials to discuss issues involving medical responses. At this meeting we were informed that county EMS would have the ability to assist with medical responses within Roselle Park during certain hours to help in responding to medical calls. It was determined that RPFAS was experiencing the most difficulty during daytime hours on week days in having volunteers available to answer calls and it was agreed that County EMS would be employed to respond to medical calls within Roselle Park during the hours of 7:00am – 7:00pm Monday – Friday to help elevate this situation.

The issue was then brought to the attention of Borough Council and at which time all members understood the need for enhanced medical assistance within Roselle Park and agreed to enter into an agreement with the County of Union to employ the services of Union County EMS to assist with medical responses within Roselle Park between the hours of 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday – Friday. As part of that agreement Roselle Park First Aid Squad would be responsible for all other medical calls between the hours of 7:00 pm – 7:00 am Monday – Friday, RPFAS would also be responsible for all medical requests on Saturday & Sunday's.

After adopting this agreement with County EMS it was again brought to my attention that RPFAS was still experiencing difficulty in responding to medical calls that fell within their range of responsibility which was 7:00pm – 7:00am, Monday – Friday and weekends. The recent percentage numbers for medical calls and responses were supplied to all members of Council at the special meeting that was held on July 20, 2017. After review of these percentages and much discussion council voted in favor of employing the full time services of County EMS to cover Roselle Park on a full time basis to provide the best possible medical services to the residents within this community.

I understand that this has not been an easy decision by any member of council or by any emergency service department head who serves this community, however this issue had reached the level of a serious public safety concern and we were all obligated to address the situation for the betterment and wellbeing of the public.

I have dedicated my professional life to serving this community for the past 33 years and for the past 10 years I have served as the chief law enforcement officer within this municipality , I have accepted the responsibility of providing the best possible public safety to every person who resides, works and visits this community. This responsibility is not one that I take lightly and therefore if I sat quietly and ignored this issue and did not bring this matter to the attention of the Public Safety Committee and governing body I would have been neglectful in my duties and failed in my responsibilities in protecting the people of this community who I have sworn to serve and protect.

In closing I would like to thank each and every member of the Roselle Park Volunteer First Aid Squad who have dedicated themselves to serving this community over the past 75 years, the volunteer squad was formed 75 years ago by dedicated men and women who saw the need to serve the residents of Roselle Park. It is unfortunate that due to the changing times in our society volunteerism has been drastically reduced and this is not a situation that is unique to Roselle Park.

Very truly yours,

Paul W. Morrison
Chief of Police