

## **RESOLUTION No.**

### **Recognize Bureau of Emergency Communications Telecommunicators as First Responders in the City of Portland (Resolution)**

**WHEREAS**, the federal government’s Standard Occupational Classification System (SOCS) sorts workers into occupational categories for statistical purposes, according to the nature of the work performed and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or training needed to perform the work; and

**WHEREAS**, America’s 9-1-1 telecommunicators are currently categorized at the federal level as “Office and Administrative Support Occupation,” a category which includes secretaries, hotel desk clerks, postal mail sorters, office clerks, and taxicab dispatchers; and

**WHEREAS**, classifying 9-1-1 telecommunicators as an “Office and Administrative Support Occupation” fails to recognize their central and critical role in public safety and homeland security, their specialized training and skills, and their uniquely stressful work environment; and

**WHEREAS**, classifying 9-1-1 telecommunicators as “Protective Service Occupations” – alongside police, firefighters, security guards, lifeguards, and others whose job it is to protect our communities – would better reflect the work they perform and the service they provide; and

**WHEREAS**, in times of intense personal crisis and community-wide disasters, the first access point for those seeking all types of emergency services is 9-1-1; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon has recognized that 9-1-1 telecommunicators suffer from post-traumatic stress due to work-related trauma exposure and as such, have been included in PTSD legislation under ORS 656.802 along with police, fire, and medical personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, All Emergency Telecommunicators within the City of Portland are trained in emergency medical dispatch qualifying them to offer a variety of potentially lifesaving instructions including CPR, bleeding control, choking, childbirth, and airway maintenance over the telephone until paramedics arrive on the scene; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Portland desires to elevate the status of its 9-1-1 telecommunicators to First Responders in a move that outpaces similar efforts on the national level; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Portland desires to give 9-1-1 telecommunicators the recognition and classification of first responders that they have earned and deserve;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City of Portland that 9-1-1 Telecommunicators within the City of Portland, who work at the Bureau of Emergency Communications are hereby recognized as First Responders in service to our community.

Adopted by the Council:

**Mary Hull Caballero**

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Mapps

Prepared by: Bob Cozzie, BOEC Director

Deputy

Date Prepared: April 5, 2021

**239**  
Agenda No.  
**RESOLUTION NO.**  
Title

Recognize Bureau of Emergency Communications Telecommunicators as First Responders in the City of Portland (Resolution)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTRODUCED BY</b> Commissioner/Auditor: Mayor Wheeler &amp; Commissioner Mapps</p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>April 6, 2021</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</b></p>	<p>Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p>
<p>Mayor—Finance &amp; Administration – Wheeler <small>Ted Wheeler</small></p>	
<p>Position 1/Utilities - Rubio</p>	
<p>Position 2/Works - Ryan</p>	
<p>Position 3/Affairs - Hardesty</p>	
<p>Position 4/Safety - Mapps <small>Mingus Mapps</small></p>	<p>By: <u>Megan Lehman</u> Deputy</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUREAU APPROVAL</b></p>	<p><b>ACTION TAKEN:</b></p>
<p>Bureau: <b>Bob Cozzie</b> Bureau Head: <small>Robert E. Cozzie, Jr.</small></p>	
<p>Prepared by: <b>Bob Cozzie</b> Date Prepared: <b>4/5/2021</b></p>	
<p>Impact Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p><b>City Auditor Office Approval:</b> required for Code Ordinances</p>	
<p><b>City Attorney Approval:</b> required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date <b>April 14, 2021</b></p>	

<b>AGENDA</b>
<p><b>TIME CERTAIN</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Start time: _____ Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p><b>CONSENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>REGULAR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 min Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:	
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Rubio	1. Rubio	
2. Ryan	2. Ryan	
3. Hardesty	3. Hardesty	
4. Mapps	4. Mapps	
Wheeler	Wheeler	

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** Recognize Bureau of Emergency Communications Telecommunicators as First Responders in the City of Portland (Resolution)

**Contact name:** Bob Cozzie, Director

**Contact phone:** 503-545-6371

**Presenter name:** Commissioner Mapps

**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

Public Safety (9-1-1) Telecommunicators are categorized in the federal government's Standard Occupational Classification System (SOCS) as an "Office and Administrative Support Occupation". This classification fails to recognize the central and critical role in public safety and homeland security that telecommunicators fill. Additionally, the uniquely stressful work environment, skills, education, and training for 9-1-1 telecommunicators is more in line with "Protective Service Occupations" alongside police, firefighters, and others whose job it is to protect our community. This classification better reflects the work performed by 9-1-1 telecommunicators.

This resolution recognizes 9-1-1 telecommunicators as first responders alongside police and firefighters.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

This resolution has no fiscal impact and is intended to provide recognition only.

There has been legislation introduced in the past to bring 9-1-1 telecommunicators under the same PERS rules as police and fire. If there is a change to Oregon PERS, there could be an impact on when 9-1-1 telecommunicators are eligible for full retirement. This would impact PERS statewide, not only involving BOEC employees, but all 9-1-1 telecommunicators working in PERS-covered positions.

Again, the intent of this document is to recognize 9-1-1 telecommunicators as first responders, not to advocate for or against legislation involving changes to PERS.

### Budgetary Impact Worksheet

**Does this action change appropriations?**

**YES:** Please complete the information below.

**NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

Impact Statement for Requested Council Action

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