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Public Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
7:00 p.m.
EMS Station 20, 1400 Pelham Parkway South

Minutes

Present: Martin Morris, Veronica Castro, Yahey Obeid, Keith Ramsey, Joseph Thompson, Members

Excused: Dominick Schiano, Linda White

1. Old Business
 - a. No old business was discussed as tour of EMS 20
2. New Business
 - a. Conducted a tour of the EMS Station 20
 - b. Met with Captain Jason Saffon to get a tour.
 - c. EMS always works to get response times to high priority assignments below 7 minutes.
 - d. We viewed specialty vehicles for emergency responses.
 1. They have a supply vehicle to set up a base of operations for jobs. Electricity, extra equipment whatever is needed.
 2. Major Emergency Response Vehicle (MERV) capable of transporting 10-15 people to hospital and has 1 stretcher.
 3. Mobile Respiratory Response Vehicle ("Big Oxygen Bus") It is like a school bus with 30 Oxygen Ports. It can be used for marathons or major fires where people need oxygen.
 - e. We viewed a Rescue Ambulance which carries special equipment and medications used for "crush medicine" when someone is crushed by an object to help the patient. An O2/CO reader that checks oxygen and carbon Monoxide levels of someone exposed to smoke. Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) masks help patients that are having difficulty breathing, by pushing fluid out of their lungs as the breath.

1. The important takeaway is that many pieces of EMS equipment other than vehicles come from Federal Grant money, and not the EMS Budget.

2. Transcare went bankrupt in 2016 and took approximately 30 ambulances out of the Bronx

3. Paramedics and EMTs worked overtime shifts to cover the borough, until 130 new EMTs from the academy were assigned to the Bronx.

4. One EMS member stated that EMS receives a relatively small portion of the FDNY Budget, but responds to 4000 to 5000 calls per day.

f. EMS Station 20 is working hard with a high volume of calls. Many EMTs stressed the dangers of the job. They are constantly exposed to diseases and many people told stories of things that happened to them that the public doesn't realize. Members of EMS have been exposed to several contagious diseases such as meningitis and HIV. It is clear that EMTs have a dangerous job but no one thinks of it in those terms.

g. We would like to follow up on some of the issues that were brought to our attention

Adjournment at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Martin Morris.