

RESOLUTION _____ - 2024

RESOLUTION OF THE MT. JULIET BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, WILSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, REQUESTING ALL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS IN MT. JULIET, BE ELEVATED TO THE STATUS OF FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications are part of the critical infrastructure of the Public Safety system and play a critical role in public safety, homeland security and emergency response alongside police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator requires specialized training and skills to gather vital information and make split-second decisions to form the foundation of an effective emergency response, prevent the worsening of a situation, provide situational awareness to responders, and/or provide life-saving direction; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator works in a uniquely stressful environment, communicating with people in great distress, harm, fear, or injury, and that environment can have an adverse emotional and physical impact; acknowledging that PTSD and vicarious trauma are real issues in the 911 profession; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator holds strong “the thin gold line,” providing selfless, compassionate care to all who seek their assistance during good times and bad; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Juliet holds all these things to be true; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator is not recognized by the Federal Government as a protected classification. Despite all the requirements they must meet to work in this position, the Federal Office of Management and Budget classifies this group of individuals as clerical staff, but we dissent. The city of Mt. Juliet could not wait for the 911 Saves Act that is stalled in Congress to give our dispatchers the classification of First Responders that they have earned and deserve; and

WHEREAS, the city of Mt. Juliet recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators are far from just clerical and supports the national movement to re-classify telecommunicators as First Responders and truly recognize the work they do. Additionally, Mt. Juliet supports the 911 Saves Act to properly classify the profession of Public Safety Telecommunicators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Mt. Juliet, Wilson County, Tennessee, that from this day forward, all Public Safety Telecommunicators in Mt. Juliet are hereby elevated to the status of First Responders.

Let it be so resolved on this the 12th day of August 2024 that this resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED:

James Maness, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheila S. Lockett, CMC
City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gino Marchetti
City Attorney

Kenny Martin, City Manager