

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS (AKA DISPATCHERS) AS FIRST RESPONDERS IN ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO AND URGING OHIO LAWMAKERS TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE 911 TELECOMUNNICATORS AS FIRST RESPONDERS UNDER OHIO LAW

WHEREAS, Ashtabula County is known as the Covered Bridge Capital of Ohio and the state's largest county by land area; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators—commonly known as dispatchers—are the calm, knowledgeable voices that guide callers through life-threatening emergencies, providing critical, life-saving instructions while coordinating police, fire, and EMS response; and

WHEREAS, 911 Dispatchers are the first point of contact in virtually every emergency, bearing the responsibility of interpreting chaos, offering reassurance, and facilitating rapid deployment of appropriate response resources; and

WHEREAS, these professionals sacrifice nights, weekends, holidays, and time with their families to serve the public—often without public recognition, despite enduring the emotional and psychological burdens that come from constant exposure to trauma and crisis; and

WHEREAS, dispatchers regularly instruct callers in CPR, childbirth, and active shooter response, and help prevent harm by detecting critical cues such as background noises or distressed voices—actions that save lives before police, fire, or EMS arrive; and

WHEREAS, 911 Dispatchers are currently classified in Ohio under clerical designations, which fails to reflect the rigorous training, psychological toll, and essential emergency functions they perform; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County recognize dispatchers as First Responders which is vital to ensuring access to resources such as mental health support, specialized training, and the respect that comes with the critical nature of their work;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County does hereby thank 911 Telecommunicators and other First Responders for their heroic and life-saving role in public safety and declare its respect for and recognition of 911 Telecommunicators as First Responders in Ashtabula County, Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Commissioners urge Ohio lawmakers to formally recognize 911 dispatchers as First Responders under Ohio law to acknowledge the critical, lifesaving work they perform every day.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2026-95

February 05, 2026

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AS FIRST RESPONDERS IN ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO AND URGING OHIO
LAWMAKERS TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE 911 TELECOMUNNICATORS AS FIRST
RESPONDERS UNDER OHIO LAW**

Upon the motion of J.P. Ducro IV, seconded by Kathryn L. Whittington.

VOTE:

Casey R. Kozlowski	Aye
Kathryn L. Whittington	Aye
J.P. Ducro IV	Aye

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio