

**A RESOLUTION CREATING A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE AND
RECOMMEND BEST PRACTICES AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE
MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGH EMS CARE IN ALLEN COUNTY,
INDIANA, INCLUDING FORT WAYNE**

WHEREAS, by Interlocal Agreement with Allen County government and Fort Wayne City Code, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within the boundaries of Fort Wayne are to be provided by the entity known as the Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (TRAA); and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Allen County fiscal body adopted new funding to establish newly created Fire Districts; and

WHEREAS, with the creation of the Fire Districts, there are additional EMS providers, serving areas previously uncovered by any service other than TRAA or a volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, robust EMS care is imperative for the general health, safety, and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, TRAA operates in a public utility model, and has not traditionally been the recipient of local government, property taxpayer dollars, whereas the County Fire Districts, as noted by the adoption of the tax increases by Allen County, are funded by the taxpayers in the impacted areas; and

WHEREAS, while the Fire Districts also employ professional firefighters, who may overlap as EMS providers, the Fort Wayne Fire Department does not provide a fire-based EMS service, although many Fort Wayne fighters have the same skills; and

WHEREAS, with limited staff in Allen County capable of providing EMS care and a nationwide shortage, there are ongoing staffing concerns and competition between the various parties, leading to wage inflation and competition for employees; and

WHEREAS, if TRAA reaches level zero it requests assistance from the County Fire Districts, straining the system county-wide; and

WHEREAS, TRAA is an intergovernmental agency between Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne, whose Board of Directors are 4/9 appointed by the Allen County Commissioners and 4/9 appointed by the Fort Wayne Mayor, designating these elected officials as fiduciaries of TRAA and its welfare; and

WHEREAS, with the creation of the new Fire Districts in Allen County, TRAA has already experienced a drop in employment enough to negatively impact response times; and

1 **WHEREAS**, over the last three (3) years of discussions on this matter has lacked a
2 coordinated focus from all sides to address the true EMS needs of Allen County residents,
3 including those Allen County residents who live within the boundaries of Fort Wayne.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF**
5 **THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** Create a standing task force called the “EMS Care Task Force” (Task
7 Force) to investigate and recommend answers to the following items, reported back formally to
8 Fort Wayne and Allen County Executives, as well as Fort Wayne and Allen County Councils.
9 The purpose of the Task Force is to ensure the system(s) of EMS within Allen County, including
10 Fort Wayne, provide reliable and financially sustainable services so those experiencing health
11 emergencies are provided quality and timely life-saving care. The items to be investigated and
12 reported within 180 days of passage of this resolution include but are not limited to:

- 13 1. What is the appropriate funding mechanism for EMS providers in Allen County,
14 including within Fort Wayne? How does this become and remain sustainable? To date,
15 two of the newly created Fire Districts have approached City and County governments
16 for additional funding beyond their budgeted amounts, leading to an assumption that they
17 are not financially stable.
- 18 2. What is the appropriate operational system to become and remain sustainable for all of
19 Allen County, including within Fort Wayne?
- 20 3. What is the appropriate management system to become and remain sustainable for all of
21 Allen County, including within Fort Wayne?
- 22 4. Should a system of care referred to as having a “County-wide” service area includes the
23 area inside Allen County, but also inside the municipal boundaries of Fort Wayne?
- 24 5. Is a system of care that stabilizes the market, but costs the taxpayers more, thereby
25 causing a transfer in priorities, acceptable?

26 **SECTION 2.** Invite County Commissioners and County Council to co-create the Task
27 Force.

28 **SECTION 3.** The Task Force shall be comprised of appointments from the following:

- 29 1. One (1) appointment made by the Allen County Commissioners. Must be a
30 Commissioner or appointed senior staff member.
- 31 2. One (1) appointment made by the Allen County Council. Must be a member of the Allen
32 County Council.
- 33 3. One (1) appointment made by the Mayor. Must be the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or an
34 appointed senior staff member.
- 35 4. One (1) appointment made by Fort Wayne City Council. Must be a member of the Fort
36 Wayne City Council.
- 37 5. One (1) appointment from the Allen County Fire Chiefs Association. Must be a current
38 area Fire or EMS Chief.
- 39 6. One (1) appointment from TRAA. Must be a member of the TRAA Board or the TRAA
40 Director.
- 41 7. One (1) appointment from the Parkview, Lutheran or IU Health systems serving in Allen
42 County with knowledge of EMS and Emergency Room services.

1 8. One (1) appointment by the Emergency Medical Services Foundation (EMS Foundation)
2 board of directors of one of their members.

3 9. One (1) individual with expertise in EMS/health care insurance agreements, negotiations,
4 and reimbursements.

5 In addition, the Task Force may decide on auxiliary staff to support the mission of the group,
6 including but not limited to:

7 1. Administrative Support

8 2. Legal Support

9 3. Subject Matter Support

10 Auxiliary staff may not vote on any recommendations but may participate in discussions.

11 **SECTION 4.** The Task Force shall meet regularly and frequently until it is satisfied that
12 all parts of the EMS system are stabilized or has a plan in motion to stabilize the system.

13 **SECTION 5.** Should the County not participate in the Task Force, upon receiving
14 declination from the County Commissioners, the City Administration shall promptly brief City
15 Council on its proactive plans to financially stabilize TRAA and defensive plans to protect
16 TRAA and generate new revenue from stakeholders underpaying in the system.

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Russell Jehl, Council Member

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Nathan Hartman, Council Member

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Scott Myers, Council Member

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28 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

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30 _____
31 Joseph G. Bonahoom, City Council Attorney