

Legislation Text

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Authorizing Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold hearings to examine the state of Philadelphia's EMS system and the areas where additional support is needed to ensure that the Philadelphia Fire Department is equipped with the necessary tools to perform their job.

WHEREAS, The proper and efficient administration of the City of Philadelphia's EMS system is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia EMS system received over 297,000 calls in FY17; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary for the City to ensure that all systems are functioning properly and if there are any gaps, that those gaps be addressed promptly in order to ensure the continued success and safety of EMS response for the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, A routine examination of the City's EMS system is necessary to ensure that the Department is operating as efficiently as possible, especially given the high demand of the services provided by the Philadelphia Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, The average one-alarm fire call involves the utilization of 16-24 people, which means that there are significant workforce implications when multiple incidents happen at the same time, or within very close succession to one another; and

WHEREAS, Fire Commissioner Adam Thiel acknowledged that there are times during 12-hour shifts when medics aren't able to use the bathroom or eat a meal due to the volume of calls that the Department is receiving at a given time; and

WHEREAS, There are required training sessions that must be completed by all EMS personnel, which are having to be completed as off-duty assignments, resulting in additional overtime pay, as a result of heavy individual caseloads by EMS personnel across the City; and

WHEREAS, There is a vested interest by this Council and the City to ensure that all of our EMS personnel and the Fire Department are receiving the proper breaks and relief during the shift in order to maintain the high level of care that they provide to each person who they treat; and

WHEREAS, Investing the proper time and resources to examine the operation of the City's EMS System will allow Philadelphia to continue to lead as an example to other municipalities across the Country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby authorizes Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold hearings to examine the state of the Philadelphia's EMS system and the areas where additional support is needed to ensure that the Philadelphia Fire Department is equipped with the necessary tools to perform their job.