

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR RATH, MILLS, LORIGO, DIXON, HARDWICK, & MORTON**

Re: Support for Continuing the Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters provide emergency response services to more than 10,000,000 New Yorkers, including our residents here in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of volunteer firefighters has declined over the years from 110,000 in 1990 to less than 84,000 in 2010 with the average volunteer age steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that volunteer firefighters account for such a significant portion of emergency services calls that property taxes would have to be raised 19.7% to account for their efforts if they were replaced by career firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, awarded in 2010 to the Fireman's Association of the State of New York (FASNY), is designed to encourage youth to join the ranks of volunteer firefighters by their pursuit of a community college degree in exchange for five years of volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, the SAFER grant has led to a decrease in the number of volunteers leaving the service as well as a decrease in the average age of our volunteers; and

WHEREAS, without the grant there would likely be a return to the past decades of decline in the volunteer firefighter ranks, a loss of funding and enrollment at community colleges across the State of New York, and a drop in the quality of response on the part of Emergency Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports the continued awarding of the Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant to the Fireman's Association of the State of New York; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Brian E. Kamoie the Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs Directorate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FASNY Volunteer Programs Coordinator John D'Alessandro, and all parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None