

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS LORGO, RATH, TODARO, AND MILLS**

Support for Proposed Protections for First Responders from Criminal Justice Reform

WHEREAS, the 2019 New York State Budget included significant changes to the state's pre-trial discovery procedures; and

WHEREAS, Bail/Criminal Justice Reform legislation substantially changed the discovery process to require an expedited timeline for prosecutors to provide evidence from crime scenes, including police reports, radio communications, body camera footage, dash-cam video, photographs, and witness names and contact information related to the prosecution, to defense attorneys within 15 days after a defendant's arraignment; and

WHEREAS, provisions of the 2019 legislation protects law enforcement personnel from the disclosure of name and contact information to guard against them and their families from threats and possible intimidation; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 legislation does not extend this protection to first responders responding to a crime scene; and

WHEREAS, State Senate bill S7280 and Assembly Bill A9107 would amend current criminal procedure law to shield first responders, including ambulance services, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, from having their personal information shared during discovery; and

WHEREAS, many volunteer firefighter and first responder organizations face recruitment challenges, and the potential threat of a first responder or their family being targeted by a defendant or other group could deter volunteer recruitment, thus the proposed Senate and Assembly bills will help shield and support our community's first responders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, this Honorable Body is in support of proposed New York State Senate bill S7280 and Assembly Bill A9107 to shield first responders from having their personal and identifying information shared during the discovery process; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York delegation of the NYS Senate and Assembly, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution