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BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE RESCUE SQUAD, INC

New Report Provides Compelling Evidence for Rejecting Ambulance Fees BCCRS Calls on County Council to Reject Fees

Bethesda, MD (May 14, 2010) -- A new report provides compelling evidence -- from multiple sources -- that ambulance fees will discourage people from calling 911 in a medical emergency and/or refuse ambulance transport when needed. The report, prepared by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad (BCCRS) and released in conjunction with the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCVFRA), definitively refutes the claims that ambulance fees will have no impact on access to emergency medical services.

"As the title of the report notes, ambulance fee supporters are entitled to their own opinions, but they aren't entitled to their own facts," said BCCRS President Ken Yazge. "And the facts are clear: scientific studies, opinion surveys, and the experience of jurisdictions with fees show that ambulance fees will reduce calls when help is needed most. The County Council now has more than enough evidence that ambulance fees create a real public health issue and should be rejected once and for all."

Last year, the Council wisely rejected ambulance fees. We urge the Council members who voted against fees last year to do so again, and we respectfully ask the others to reconsider their positions and reject ambulance fees

2009 Council Vote

For Fees

Marc Elrich
Michael Knapp
George Leventhal

Against Fees

Phil Andrews
Roger Berliner
Valerie Ervin
Nancy Navarro
Duchy Trachtenberg

Abstain

Nancy Floreen

About the Rescue Squad

Now in its 70th year, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad is a community-supported non-profit organization that provides, at no charge to the recipient, professional fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Maryland area, as well as Upper Northwest Washington, D.C. The spirit, commitment, dedication, and operational skills of its members are the defining characteristics of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. The Squad provides the community with the security and

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peace of mind that comes with emergency services that are among the best in the United States.

The Rescue Squad does not receive regular budgeted funds from any government. Instead, the Squad raises almost all of its \$2 million operating budget from individual donors, foundations, businesses, and occasional state and federal grants. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad is registered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions to the Squad are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

Contact and Additional Information

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