

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY
RECOGNIZING E- 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS OF THE DEKALB COUNTY E-
911 CENTER AS PROFESSIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS AND PART OF THE
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY FRAMEWORK.**

WHEREAS, DeKalb County Board of Commissioners recognize that Public Safety Telecommunicators are part of the critical infrastructure of the public safety framework; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes not only are they professional First Responders, they are the first, first responders, and these selfless individuals make life saving split second decisions on daily basis in order to provide proper response to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes E- 911 Telecommunicators provide care and compassion to our citizens in their worst and most horrific moments and many of these calls leave a traumatic effect on the Telecommunicator. Acknowledging that PTSD and vicarious trauma are real issues in the E- 911 profession; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes that DeKalb County E- 911 Telecommunicators go through an extensive background check including a suitability screening, polygraph, and must complete one-week P.O.S.T state training, one week of Emergency Medical Dispatch training, and two day of GCIC/NCIC training. They also complete an extensive 12-14 weeks interdepartmental classroom training program with an additional 8 weeks of on the job training with a Certified Training Officer which totals more than 22 weeks of training. Additionally, Tele-Communicators are required annually to complete 24 hours of continuing education which exceeds any state requirement; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes our Telecommunicators perform their duty with no formal protections or offers of individual immunity and that in the course of their good faith efforts, their public safety response that communities rely on is not recognized by the Federal Government as a protected classification. Despite all the requirements they must meet to work in this position, the Federal Office of Management and Budget classifies this group of individuals as clerical staff, but we dissent; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators are far from just clerical and supports the national movement to re-classify Telecommunicators as professional first responders and truly recognize the work they do. Additionally, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners supports the 911 Saves Act to properly classify the profession of E- 911 Telecommunicators.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2019.

JEFF RADER
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2019.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia