



P.O. Box 247 921 East Main Street Ext. Grove City, Pennsylvania 16127

November 16, 2022

Dear Borough Leaders,

Superior Ambulance Service, Inc. (Superior), without any financial assistance from the Borough has for years been responding to 911 dispatches that take it within the Borough. Superior also responds to 911 dispatches to 21 other townships and boroughs in Mercer, Butler and Venango Counties without receiving any financial assistance from them for these responses.

Superior's costs in responding to 911 dispatches are rising at a rate not matched by the revenue it receives for those services. That threatens the continued sustainability of Superior to provides these services. Therefore, it is critical that the Borough and the 21 other municipalities Superior serves provide Superior with financial assistance if the 911 responses it provides in these municipalities are to continue.

Please understand that Superior is not compensated by insurers and patients for its 911 responses that do not result in an ambulance transport and many of these responses do not result in an ambulance transport. Moreover, even when we do conduct an ambulance transport associated with a 911 response our reimbursement for trips covered by some insurers, such as Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, do not cover our costs. Also, often patients who are uninsured are unable to pay us for the ambulance service we provide for them in responding to a 911 dispatch.

The Borough is required by statute to provide Superior with appropriate financial and administrative assistance for the EMS it provides within the Borough's borders pursuant to 911 dispatches. Under 8 Pa.C.S. § 1202, the Borough has the following responsibilities:

(56) To ensure that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the borough by the means and to the extent determined by the borough, **including the appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services**. The borough shall consult with fire and emergency medical services providers to discuss the emergency services needs of the borough. The borough shall require any emergency services organization

receiving borough funds to provide to the borough an annual itemized listing of all expenditures of these funds before the borough may consider budgeting additional funding to the organization.

The Borough has not been satisfying these statutory responsibilities and over the last 12 months we have been discussing the EMS issues with State, County, and Local Elected Officials.

In an October 14, 2022, letter that I sent to the Borough and the other 21 municipalities, I asked each to pass a ½ mill property tax that the law permits it to enact to collect funds to financially assist Superior to continue to provide 911 responses within its borders. That would result in the municipalities, collectively, providing Superior with around \$230,000 in financial assistance. That amount would not fully cover our losses in providing 911 responses, but it would help. Attached is a list of Municipalities and what their ½ mill tax or equivalent is.

To the best of my knowledge, the Borough has not yet established the requested ½ mill property tax. I continue to encourage the Borough to do so. Please, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this letter, advise Superior in writing whether the Borough has or intends to impose the ½ mill property tax that Superior has requested or is otherwise willing to negotiate a financial assistance agreement with Superior.

If Superior does not hear back from the Borough within fifteen (15) days, it will begin to charge the Borough \$500 for each 911 response it conducts in the Borough. If within that period the Borough advises that it has or intends to impose the requested ½ mill property tax or is willing to negotiate a financial assistance arrangement with Superior, Superior will give the Borough sixty (60) days from the date of this letter to impose the tax or enter into a financial assistance agreement with Superior. If neither occurs within the sixty (60)-day period, Superior will begin charging the Borough \$500 for each 911 response it conducts in the Borough.

If Superior begins charging the Borough \$500 for each 911 response it conducts within its borders, in the event the Borough does not pay Superior within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice, Superior will give ninety (90) days' advance notice to the persons and entities specified in the EMS System Act and the EMS regulation that Superior will discontinue responding to 911 dispatches taking it within the Borough. After the ninety (90) day period, Superior will then discontinue providing 911 responses in the Borough and pursue such other remedies as may be appropriate.

Superior is certainly willing to work with the Borough to help ensure that its people receive the emergency ambulance services they need. We just can no longer afford to provide such services in the Borough without receiving some financial assistance from the Borough. Again, please within fifteen (15) days from the date of this letter advise us of the Borough's intentions.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Dick, CCEMT-P  
Chief

Cc: Page, Wolfberg, & Wirth



P.O. Box 247 921 East Main Street Ext. Grove City, PA 16127  
Dispatch Center: 724-458-5350 Fax: 724-458-6302

2022 Assessed values on all taxable property as provided by each County tax claim office.

½ mill property tax or equivalent

### **Mercer County**

Coolspring Township	\$ 14,403.20
East Lackawannock Township	\$ 10,273.05
Findley Township	\$ 6,872.67
Jackson Township	\$ 10,547.13
Jefferson Township	\$ 9,932.15
Lake Township	\$ 3,588.93
Liberty Township	\$ 7,952.03
Pine Township	\$ 31,057.38
Sandy Lake Township	\$ 6,137.85
Springfield Township	\$ 27,885.23
Wolf Creek Township	\$ 4,048.93
Worth Township	\$ 4,374.65
Grove City Borough	\$ 24,170.07
Jackson Center Borough	\$ 780.25
Mercer Borough	\$ 8,323.85
Sandy Lake Borough	\$ 3,807.27
Stoneboro Borough	\$ 3,547.78

**Venango County**

Barkeyville Borough	\$ 12,892.81
Irwin Township	\$ 28,929.60

**Butler County**

Harrisville Borough	\$ 2,605.13
Marion Township	\$ 4,259.26
Mercer Township	\$ 4,105.18

Total of 22 Municipalities:	\$ 230,494.40
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