



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 10/03/17 05:30 PM

Department: Department of Emergency Response

Category: Advisory Boards/Committees

Functional Category: Bylaws, Emergency Communications Rev. and Oversight Comm.

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 7301

1 **Rescinding Bylaws of Tompkins County Fire, Disaster, and**
2 **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board and Delegating**
3 **Duties to Emergency Response Oversight Committee (EROC) Fire**
4 **and EMS Sub-Committee**

5 WHEREAS, Article Five of the County Law of New York State authorizes the creation of a County Fire
6 Advisory Board through Section 225-a, and of a County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board through
7 Section 223-b, and
8

9 WHEREAS, Section C-23.02 of the Tompkins County Charter establishes a County Fire, Disaster &
10 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board for purposes delineated in County Law, most notably and
11 primarily for the development of mutual aid plans and responder training programs, and
12

13 WHEREAS, the framework of the Advisory Board dates to 1949, and the Bylaws of the Advisory Board were
14 last updated in 1992, and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Fire, Disaster and EMS Advisory Board has not been appointed, nor been active for over a
17 decade, and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee (ECROC), as predecessor
20 body to the newly renamed and reconstituted Emergency Response Oversight Committee (EROC), has in recent years
21 substantially performed the duties of and has the same membership as a Fire Advisory Board and an EMS Advisory
22 Board while more fully endeavoring to assure the interoperability of the first responder community that includes both
23 fire and emergency medical services, and
24

25 WHEREAS, merger of these advisory boards and committees will promote a higher level of coordination,
26 communication, cooperation, and activity among the many response agencies and local governments charged with
27 provision of public safety first response, and
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29 WHEREAS, the voting members of Fire and EMS Sub-Committee of EROC, as appointed by the Tompkins
30 County Legislature, comprise a representative and requisite number of members to effectuate the purposes of a Fire
31 Advisory Board and EMS Advisory Board and will conform to the requirements of both the NYS County Law and the
32 County Charter, and
33

34 WHEREAS, the voting members of the Fire and EMS Sub-Committee of EROC shall at a minimum include
35 the Director of the Department of Emergency Response (serving as County Fire, Disaster and EMS Coordinator), the
36 Ithaca Fire Chief or designee, two (2) volunteer firefighters or designees, one representative of the community-based
37 ambulance services or designee, and one representative of the commercial ambulance services or designee, and
38 broadly represent the fire and EMS community, now therefore be it
39

40 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature
41 rescinds the bylaws of the Tompkins County Fire, Disaster and EMS Advisory Board, as adopted by Resolution No.
42 178 of 1992,
43

44 RESOLVED, further, That the Fire and EMS Committee of the EROC is herewith designated as the Tompkins

1 County Fire Advisory Board and EMS Advisory Board and the Fire, EMS and Disaster Advisory Board, in accordance
2 with the provisions of New York State County Law and the Tompkins County Charter and Code, and all such duties of
3 the advisory board are hereby delegated to those voting members of EROC,
4

5 RESOLVED, further, That the Fire and EMS Sub-Committee of EROC, acting as the newly constituted Fire,
6 EMS and Disaster Advisory Board shall submit to the County Legislature bylaws to effectuate the purposes of New
7 York County Law, as these pertain to fire and EMS advisory boards, and may expand membership as may be deemed
8 appropriate by the Legislature's future adoption and amendment of the bylaws.

9 **SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20



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Summary

Emergency Response Oversight Committee Reorganization & Delegation of Duties- Fire, Disaster & EMS Advisory Board

- Tompkins County provides and coordinates many shared services, technologies, equipment and data to the public safety community and first responders.
- Numerous advisory boards, oversight committees, and task groups provide governance and guidance to county departments and systems users.
- These committees were formed over many decades for narrowly defined purposes.
- The memberships and functions of these committees are in many instances duplicative, and in some cases, inactive.
- The use of, and access to county provided equipment and accumulated data is extensive, growing exponentially and crosses jurisdictions, disciplines and various levels of government.
- These technologies are an integral component of daily operations and responses.
- A high level of coordination and decision making is necessary to allow for the proper and universal access to the systems and data.
- A high level of security and compliance coordination is necessary to meet federal, state and local regulations, which is best provided through the collective development and enforcement of policy, procedure, and training for multi-agency, centralized systems.
- Emerging technologies, including “Next Generation 911” and Public Safety Broadband initiatives will require an increasing attention to oversight and policy.
- Current structures are an impediment to efficient decision making.

These resolutions will streamline decision making, include additional stakeholders, and ensure that governance reflects the highest level of coordination and participation possible, through:

- The reorganization of the Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee into an “Emergency Response Oversight Committee” that governs use and coordination of all shared communications/data technologies and equipment.
- The inclusion of municipal governments, Department of Information Technology, expanded users’ representatives and the District Attorney’s Office.
- Formal incorporation of LETSS and FEMTec activities into the governance structure.
- Delegation of Fire, Disaster & EMS Advisory Board functions to Fire & EMS Sub-Committee of EROC, ensuring that operational plans and technologies are fully integrated.

- 1 • Mutual Aid Agreements that are globally developed and inclusive.
- 2 This is a structure that builds upon the successes of the past and positions public safety for the comprehensive and
- 3 complex decision making that will be required in the future.