

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 911 SAVES ACT OF 2025 AND THE
RECLASSIFICATION OF 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS AS FIRST RESPONDERS**

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators are an essential part of the public safety infrastructure in this county and state; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators are trained to play a critical role in emergency response as the first line of communication for persons needing law enforcement, fire, or medical response, and serve as a lifeline to law enforcement, fire, and medical response personnel in the field; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators serve 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the same as firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical services workers; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators make the same sacrifices in their personal lives as firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical services workers by leaving their families, friends, and the safety of their homes to handle the emergency 911 calls that save the lives, protect the property, and ensure the safety of their community during emergency events; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators heroically answer emergency 911 calls around-the-clock whereby they provide medical guidance, instruct callers on staying safe in extremely trying and often terrifying situations, and help guide callers to safety during disasters, while simultaneously dispatching field units to the emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators must handle the stress of answering calls, one after another, while serving as the voice of calm in chaos and providing assistance during a call that may represent the worst day of the caller's life. On a daily basis, 911 Telecommunicators hear cries of devastation and screams for help, and serve as the support as citizens cope with loss of loved ones; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators routinely toggle between several calls at the same time, while working with multiple high tech emergency services delivery platforms to manage all elements of each call to efficiently and smoothly process and dispatch 911 and non-emergency pressing calls, responding to each call professionally, which presents a unique stressor within the first responder world; and

WHEREAS, 911 Telecommunicators handle all of these stressful situations for the callers while working to keep their fellow first responders in the field safe; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is designed and maintained solely for statistical purposes and used by federal agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data; and

WHEREAS, the SOC currently classifies 911 Telecommunicators under office, clerical, and administrative support occupations; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation has been introduced by the U.S. House of Representatives, known as the 911 SAVES Act, that would require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to reclassify 911 Telecommunicators from office, clerical, and administrative support occupations to protective service occupation as first responders; and

WHEREAS, to honor the dedicated individuals who serve in this crucial position, the Currituck County Board of Commissioners supports this bipartisan act which enhances public safety systems without imposing additional costs on counties or intergovernmental partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for Currituck County, North Carolina that:

Section I. The Currituck County Board of Commissioners recognizes 911 Telecommunicators serve as first responders in North Carolina's public safety.

Section 2. The Currituck County Board of Commissioners expresses its support for the 911 SAVES Act which reclassifies 911 Telecommunicators to a protective service occupation as first responders.

Section 3. This resolution shall be submitted to the Clerk to the Board for immediate publishing.

Section 4. This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 17th day of February, 2025.

Selina S. Jarvis, Vice-chair
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Leeann Walton
Clerk to the Board

(COUNTY SEAL)