

Dear District 3 Residents,

The letter here was forwarded to each of the Township Committee members and the Township Administrator. The letter is in response to attempts by Fire District No. 2 (Whippany) to privatize Emergency Medical Services (EMS), not only in their district, but throughout the Township. The providing of EMS in Hanover Township was recognized, by resolution, by the Township Committee in 2010. The move afoot is to turn EMS over to a hospital-based organization.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 3 sees no need to fix a system which is not broken. Our organization has provided EMS since 1941, representing 83 years of dedication to our community. District 3 has consistently worked to provide the finest levels of care, and currently provides all allowable treatments as allowed by the State of New Jersey, something that a hospital-based provider will not match.

District 3 has staffed consistent with the needs of our community and has response times to both Districts that surpass national averages.

Over the next few months Fire District No. 3 anticipates this matter coming front and center with the Township Committee and will provide data and statistics which bear out that the program, currently in place in Hanover Township, represents the finest system of EMS in the County, especially when factoring in the Firefighter/EMT First-Responders of Fire District No. 2.

Comments or questions can be forwarded to [emsqa@htfd3.com](mailto:emsqa@htfd3.com).

Sincerely,

*Steven J. Cornine, Chairman*

## *Fire District No. 3*

TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

May 28, 2024

Hanover Township Committee  
1000 State Route 10  
Whippany, New Jersey

Dear Hanover Township Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the privatization of EMS in the Township of Hanover. I hope you will agree that the EMS Service provided by Hanover Township Fire District 3 is in the best interest of all Hanover Township residents.

On Tuesday, May 21st, 2024, at 5 PM, representatives from District 3 met with members from District 2 Board, the Township's Administrator, two members of the Township Committee, and a private agency engaged by District 2 to propose Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Hanover Township. We approached this meeting with open minds, aiming to understand the reasons behind it. On November 11, 2010, the then Township Committee of the Township of Hanover, by means of Township Resolution 217-10, designated Fire District 3 as the agency authorized to provide EMS services to Hanover Township; we provide EMT Level transport ambulance services. Fire District 2 provides first responder EMT level response, in a fire engine, only in the hours that their career personnel are on duty, and only in their district. They do not provide the level or service in which they seek to contract with a private agency.

Prior to the meeting, at our May 16, 2024 meeting, we discussed with the Township Liaison to the Board of Fire Commissioners, rumors that had been circulating about privatization of EMS. The Liaison confirmed he had no knowledge of the intent of this meeting with a private agency or any issues or concerns with our EMS services. During the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting our liaison provided feedback, which focused on billing and cost-sharing improvements; his commentary was constructive and appreciated.

However, during May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, I encountered another Township Committee member who appeared well-informed about the private EMS proposal, but had never previously engaged with any commissioner from Fire District 3 to discuss our services. Fire District 3 has received no previous requests for data or feedback. The concept of District 2 and the township committee representatives bringing in a private entity before researching any alleged issues or shortcomings, and potential solutions is concerning.

As the Chairman of Fire District 3, I am committed to providing the best services at a reasonable cost. Engaging a private entity for EMS suggests to our dedicated volunteers and staff that their contributions are no longer valued, potentially prompting them to leave. Everyone understands that privatizing EMS would cause a significant reduction in the necessary personnel, mainly in District 3.

District 3 taxpayers fund all EMS services provided to Hanover Township and to my knowledge, there have been no complaints about our services. Just this year, District voters approved a ballot question allowing for the purchase of an ambulance, while significantly voting against other items on the ballot. This indicates to me they were well informed, and supportive of the EMS services we provide. The addition of this ambulance will allowed continued redundancy, allowing for two ambulances to be in service the majority of the time.

It's worth noting that I have previously discussed with the Chairman of Fire District 2 his interest in private EMS. I found the reasoning he presented at the meeting to be disingenuous and offensive. Valid concerns can be easily resolved with proper communication.

Beyond this, both districts have passed a resolution to explore shared services between both Districts. There have been countless meetings since we heard rumors District 2 was looking to privatize their EMS response, where this discussion would have been appropriate and official.

The Township Committee has the authority to decide who provides EMS services in Hanover Township. Given the potential negative impact on our staff and volunteers, and the reduction of the level of care in emergency situations, I respectfully request that the Township Committee make an official decision on whether to consider privatizing EMS in Hanover Township.

In closing, I reaffirm our mission statement, and for as long as the Hanover Township Committee approves of Fire District 3 as the provider of EMS for Hanover Township, we will remain open to any feedback which may improve the services we proudly provide.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Steven J. Cornine  
Chairman, Fire District No.3  
[SCornine@htfd3.com](mailto:SCornine@htfd3.com)  
973-390-5588

Enclosures: Hanover Township Fire District No.3 Mission Statement

## Mission Statement

*The Board of Fire Commissioners, Hanover Township Fire District No. 3 in partnership with the members of the Cedar Knolls Fire Department are committed to providing the residents, businesses and visitors of Hanover Township the highest level of fire, rescue and emergency medical services we can.*

*The Commissioners of the District are committed to providing emergency services to our community utilizing a group of highly trained and motivated volunteer and career professionals who are willing to give their time and energy to provide an appropriate emergency response in as timely a manner as possible.*

*We are committed to this mission through our ongoing training, maintenance of our equipment, and knowledge of the latest techniques in the services we provide.*

*We recognize that above all else, our customer, that is the people we serve come before all else.*