

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Diaz: Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Corps Members Deserve Our Thanks And Support

Rockland County Legislature votes unanimously to support volunteer members

New City, NY (**Sept. 3, 2015**) – The Rockland County Legislature has voted unanimously to support volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members by urging passage of legislation that waives certain state recreational fees.

Legislator Richard Diaz, sponsor of the local resolution backing the pending state legislation, said the waivers were a way to give thanks to the men and women who provide around-the-clock lifesaving services.

“These volunteers leave their own families in the middle of the night to help our families,” Diaz said. “They spend hours and hours each week training and responding to every sort of emergency. By supporting this state legislation, we can, in some small way, let these men and women know they are appreciated.”

Nationwide, about 69 percent of firefighters, or about 786,000 men and women, are volunteers, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Rockland relies fully on volunteers, with about 2,500 active members across 26 departments.

Legislators voted 15-0 Tuesday to urge passage of state Senate Bill S1781 and Assembly Bill A2383 to waive the fee for hunting and fishing licenses for the volunteers.

Legislators also voted 15-0 to urge passage of S3116 and A3603 to allow the volunteers free use of state parks and campsites.

Diaz said he hopes the waivers can also help attract and retain some volunteers.

“They do so much for us every day and we want to try to do as much as we can for them,” Diaz said. “They deserve it.”

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