



CITY OF ITHACA
108 East Green Street — 3rd Floor Ithaca, New York 14850-5690
COMMON COUNCIL

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PHOEBE BROWN, SECOND WARD ALDERPERSON
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PATRICK J. MEHLER, FOURTH WARD ALDERPERSON
ROBERT CANTELMO, FIFTH WARD ALDERPERSON

07 November 2022

Mr. Tim Bangs
Bangs Ambulance, Inc.
205 West Green Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Mr. Bangs:

Workers from Bangs Ambulance, Inc., have reached out to the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc. Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO to form a union allowing them to win a voice in determining not only how emergency response care is delivered, but also the terms of their employment. For almost 80 years, Bangs Ambulance has played an integral part in keeping Ithaca and Tompkins County safe and in assisting our neighbors when they are most in need. They are the definition of essential workers, who served the public during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, who serve us tirelessly during freezing winters, blazing summers, through the most challenging times. EMS Workers are instrumental in delivering top-quality emergency response care to our residents and our community. When EMS Workers have a voice in the conditions of their employment, the entire community benefits.

In emergency situations, minutes can make a difference between life and death. Through unionization, EMS Workers are seeking a protected platform to enact positive changes in their working conditions, obtaining equitable pay and livable wages, transparency in operations, and adequate staffing levels. Calls for emergency care are increasing exponentially, and current staffing is not able to meet increasing demands. EMS workers are the only non-unionized first responders in the City. Their judgement in how they conduct their work, what conditions they need to do it well, and what expectations are realistic are essential for having a functioning emergency medical service. The health, safety, and welfare of our City and our community depends on these services and these workers.

We, the undersigned members of City Council, acting on our own behalf, recognize and support EMS Workers as they vote on whether to form a union with Local 1000, and applaud Bangs Ambulance, Inc. in respecting and accommodating the will of its workers to explore unionization. We look forward to a just resolution of the concerns organized labor is raising and know this process will yield a stronger partnership in ensuring public health.

Thank you for supporting the delivery of high-quality healthcare to our community, and we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Cynthia L. Brock
First Ward Alderperson



Phoebe Brown
Second Ward Alderperson

Jeffrey Barken
Third Ward Alderperson



George DeFendini
Fourth Ward Alderperson



Robert Cantelmo
Fifth Ward Alderperson



George McGonigal
First Ward Alderperson



Ducson Nguyen
Second Ward Alderperson



Robert Gearhart
Third Ward Alderperson



Patrick J. Mehler
Fourth Ward Alderperson