

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Legislative Service Number:

- LS No. 18559

Prime Sponsor:

- Council Member Sandy Nurse

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the fire department to provide mental health support services to emergency responders

Submitted by:

- Council Member Sandy Nurse

Justification

Emergency responders are some of the most critical city workers who respond to New Yorkers' 911 calls and critical incidents. When responding to emergency incidents, they frequently face disturbing situations that can often lead to psychological trauma. The city does not have sufficient comprehensive mental health resources that meet the trauma-informed needs of these workers.

This bill would require the Fire Department to provide frontline personnel—fire operations, emergency medical service (EMS), and dispatchers—with a comprehensive suite of mental health resources. These include a 24/7 mental health hotline, voluntary wellness sessions, department-wide mental health information and sharing, all designed to reduce the effects of psychological trauma emergency responders experience during or after critical incidents.

By requiring the Fire Department to provide these critical mental health services and resources, the City will formally recognize the incredibly stressful and life saving work that emergency responders do. When our critical workers are taken care of, they are able to effectively respond to critical situations and serve our city.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.