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Equal Opportunity Employer

November 16, 2020

To: Norwood Township Board
19759 Lake St. | Charlevoix | MI | 49720

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

It has recently been brought to my attention that the Norwood Township Board would like to change our EMS service provider from Charlevoix EMS to Torch Lake EMS. I understand this was due to a financial concern with Charlevoix EMS. I personally believe you cannot put a price tag on a human life, this would only endanger the residents of Norwood Township due to an increased response time.

Currently, with Charlevoix EMS the response time would be 7-10 minute or approximately 3.9 miles travelling at posted highway speeds, if we were to have Torch Lake EMS as our provider the response times would be 18-20 minutes or approximately 16 miles. Sadly, this is almost twice the response time.

In an emergency, we all know that every minute counts. Can you honestly wait 20 minutes for an ambulance knowing you could have one in 10 minutes? Charlevoix EMS is able to staff two Advance Life Support Units 24 hours 7 days a week, with and additional two ambulance ready to respond. Torch Lake EMS has two ambulances in Torch Lake station, with only one being Advanced Life Support certified and only one staffed 24 hours 7 days a week. Where would Torch Lake's next ambulance come from? Bellaire? Central Lake? Mancelona?

Unfortunately, when emergencies happen, residents have call 911 for an ambulance, it is reassuring that we are able to have a local, professional and certified Advanced Life Support Ambulance responding to us in our time of need. This is why I would support the decision to continue the use of Charlevoix EMS as our township's EMS provider

Sincerely,

Abe Manthei
MDC Contracting