

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ORDINANCE NO. 1972**

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING SECTION 2-13, AGENCIES; BOARDS; COMMITTEES, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO ESTABLISH THE VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER SUPPORTERS AND ADVOCATES (VERSA) COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Councilmember Kim Bolan has requested that the Township establish by ordinance the Volunteer Emergency Responder Supporters and Advocates (VERSA) Committee, a group of non-emergency volunteers to support the Township's volunteer emergency responders through fundraising, emergency responder recruitment, and community outreach regarding fire and emergency medical safety awareness; and

WHEREAS, because the Township's emergency volunteers are in dire need of more members, VERSA would provide critical support in many ways, such as working booths at events, helping with special projects, and organizing and facilitating fundraisers, to reinvigorate volunteerism and alleviate some of the responsibilities of our emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Committee has reviewed the request and recommends to the Mayor and Council that the VERSA Committee be established.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Mahwah, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Administration, § 2-13, Agencies; Boards; Committees, is hereby amended to establish new subsection 2-13.11, Emergency Responder Supporters and Advocates (VERSA) Committee, to read as follows:

§ 2-13.11. Emergency Responder Supporters and Advocates (VERSA) Committee

There shall be an Emergency Responder Supporters and Advocates (VERSA) Committee

- a. **Purpose.** The VERSA Committee shall support the Township's emergency responders by assisting them with fundraising, emergency responder recruitment, and community outreach regarding fire and emergency medical safety awareness. The Committee shall periodically advise the Mayor and Council on such programs.
- b. **Members and Terms.** The Committee shall consist of eight (8) members and two (2) alternate members appointed by the Mayor for two-year terms, except upon formation of the Committee, when half the members shall be appointed to one-year terms. One member of the Township Council shall be appointed as Council liaison for a one-year term.

- c. The Committee shall nominate and elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer and secretary.
- d. Each non-officer Committee member shall be assigned to a fire or EMS station, preferably within the district where the member resides. Each district shall create a subcommittee responsible for organizing events at the respective station subject to the approval of the core VERSA committee.

SECTION 2. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part thereof.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Township heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any terms and provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

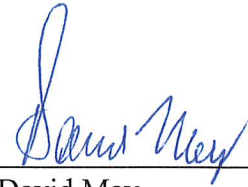
SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days following final passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

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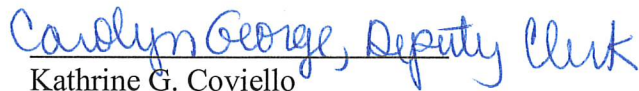
Page: 3

Dated: June 15, 2022

Attest

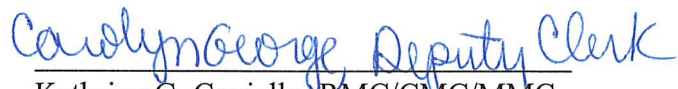


David May
Council President



Kathrine G. Coviello
Municipal Clerk

I, Kathrine G. Coviello, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mahwah, hereby certify that the within Ordinance was passed and adopted at a meeting of the Township Council held on the 19th day of May, 2022.



Kathrine G. Coviello, RMC/CMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk