

# Supporting Fire/EMS Departments in Erie County, PA

## *Policy Sheet - Authored by Marcus Jacobs\**

Departments across Erie County are struggling — and we all see it.

Every community, whether urban, suburban, or rural, deserves strong, reliable Fire and EMS services that are consistently available, resilient, and well-supported.

**The County has a critical role to play.** It should be providing immediate, practical support — fostering collaboration, streamlining operations, and helping departments meet growing demands. Unfortunately, the current proposal to create a county-wide EMS Authority is flawed. It's overly complex, unrealistic, and would take years to implement — *if it ever works at all.*

Getting 30+ departments to operate under a single authority would be a massive challenge. Even with the best leadership, perfect coordination, and the most optimistic timeline, it could take 5–10 years before departments see any benefit. **Our Fire and EMS departments can't wait. They need support now.**

### **A few examples of what smart County-led support looks like:**

- **Joint purchasing arrangements** to reduce costs and simplify procurement
- **An inventory tracking portal** to help manage equipment efficiently
- **A centralized member portal** to streamline personnel updates
- **A shared training portal** to coordinate training opportunities across departments
- **A Joint Billing and Revenue Arrangement** to support the departments financially.
- **Public information campaigns** to support recruitment, fundraising, and raise awareness

The Departments don't need more bureaucracy or top-down control. What is needed is targeted, practical support that empowers the Departments and helps them focus on what matters most — saving lives.

**Sign the petition today to urge Erie County to take immediate, meaningful action to support our Fire and EMS departments. Visit [VoteMarcus.org/platform](https://VoteMarcus.org/platform)**

*\*Candidate for Erie County Council – District 4. VoteMarcus.org, Presented by Friends of Marcus Jacobs PAC*