

Public Works are First Responders

The American Public Works Association has been advocating nationwide that Public Works Professionals are indeed First Responders. We are usually the first to respond to Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Floods, and other natural disasters and the last to leave. We are also called upon to assist our brother and sister first responders, Police officers, Firefighters and other Emergency Services when needed. The New York Metro Chapter and the New York Chapter of the American Public Works Association have joined forces to lobby our state representatives to designate Public Works professionals as “First Responders” with all the rights and benefits as other first responders.

Attached please find a sample petition for everyone’s use, there is power in numbers and the more signature’s we get, from across the state the more power we will have to convince our elected officials to listen to our request. Please reprint and use our petition form to collect as many signatures as possible. Ask each member of your Public Works Team to take a copy home, get family and friends to sign and return it to you. I will collect them, copy them and send them to the appropriate State Legislators and Senators. If you want to send them to your own Assemblymember or Senator, please copy them first and send the copies to me for inclusion with our package to the Senate Majority Leader. Together our voice will be heard!

Please print and distribute the petition below to all members of your departments to collect signatures from family and friends and return copies to me. Thank you for your help.

Return All Signed Petitions to: Jamal Ibrahim, Yonkers City Hall, 945 Broadway, Room 311, Yonkers NY 10701 or e-mail to: Jamal.Ibrahim@YonkersNY.gov

Petition to Recognize Public Works Employees as First Responders in New York State

To: The Honorable Members of the New York State Legislature

Subject: Official Recognition of Public Works Employees as First Responders

We, the undersigned residents and stakeholders of New York State, respectfully petition the Legislature to pass legislation that formally recognizes employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) as First Responders.

Why This Matters:

DPW personnel are on the front lines during emergencies, natural disasters, severe weather events, and public safety crises. Their roles are vital to maintaining infrastructure, ensuring safe transportation, restoring utility services, and supporting police, fire, and EMS operations.

DPW Workers:

- Respond 24/7 during snowstorms, floods, and Emergency Support Requests.
- Clear roads for ambulances and fire engines to respond during emergencies.
- Repair and maintain essential services such as water, sewage, and traffic control.
- Remove debris, secure hazardous areas, and assist in emergency evacuations.

Despite their critical role, they are not currently granted the same legal recognition or benefits afforded to other first responders. This lack of recognition not only undermines the significance of their work but also affects their access to protections, training, resources, and mental health support.

Our Request:

We urge the New York State Legislature to:

1. Legally recognize Department of Public Works employees as First Responders in state statutes.
2. Ensure DPW employees receive the associated benefits, training, and resources consistent with their responsibilities in emergency and disaster response.
3. Acknowledge their role in maintaining public safety and critical infrastructure before, during, and after emergencies.

Conclusion

The essential, life-saving work of DPW employees must be recognized, respected, and supported. In the face of increasing climate challenges and infrastructure demands, now is the time to act.

We call on our elected officials to do what is right and ensure that the brave and dedicated men.

Petition Signatures

Date: _____ Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Address: _____

Signature: _____

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