



COUNTY OF YORK

Robert L. Andrews
District 1

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District 2

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There could be no better time to invest in our public safety agencies and first responders. We've seen years of declining numbers of Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement personnel. This has been exacerbated by the global pandemic. Our public safety agencies have done an admirable job on the front line in an ever-changing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to ensure that we recruit and retain high caliber candidates for these positions now and in the future. We must ensure that our first responders, emergency planners, public health professionals, utility workers, and others, have the facilities and opportunities to plan, prepare and respond to public emergencies of all types.

This proposal responds directly to one of the major categories of allowed uses under the American Rescue Plan Act. As a response to the public health emergency, we have seen the effects that COVID-19 has the staffing of our public safety, health care, utility, 911 centers, and emergency management agencies. We have witnessed entire fire departments quarantined. This places a huge burden on an already stressed mutual aid system.

The speed with which the pandemic hit, coupled with the rate at which policy and procedural guidance changed, severely hindered our public safety agencies to plan and prepare their response. There was no ability to properly train on the full range of COVID-19 best practices by individual agencies or at the interagency-level.

During the first phase of vaccine distribution, the York County Incident Management Team organized. This team was responsible for developing a plan for vaccine distribution at the local level. This mission was highly successful, yet shortcomings have been noted. A site for logistic operations was needed. A location to stage material, conduct planning, set up a central point of distribution would have increased operational efficiency.

Accordingly, in response to a public emergency, known threats and emerging threats, York County will invest in the creation of a centralized facility that will support two functions:

1) The strategic **planning** of emergency operations. The **preparation** of our first responders, public health professionals, utility workers, emergency planners, and others. The staging of material and equipment in **response** to a public health emergency, natural disaster, civil disturbance, or other public safety event.

2) The **training, readiness, and development** of our public safety workforce. In cooperation with public safety, emergency management, public health, allied professionals, and the Community College System of Maine. Emphasize the **recruitment and retention** of high caliber individuals into public safety occupations.

This facility will be of a sufficient size and scope to provide an "All Hazards" approach for the training and professional development of our first responders. Allowing for improved interagency coordination, collaboration, and communications. It will be a ready site for creating points of distribution or dissemination to support operations for mobile capabilities (For example, mobile vaccine teams). The facility will also provide a site for larger scale, longer term, or semi-permanent capabilities. (For example; mass vaccination, material staging, mass feeding, and others). This would negate the need for renting commercial sites.

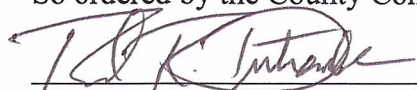
This investment will signal broadly to the citizens of York County, that their county government is committed to their safety, and the ability of their first responders to continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and what other events the future may hold.

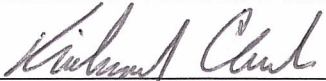
The County Commissioners are in agreement and order that a committee be established consisting of:

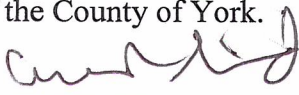
- (2) Police Chiefs as assigned by Maine Chiefs' of Police Association - District One;
 - (2) Fire Chiefs as assigned by the York County Chiefs' Association;
 - (2) members of the Community College System, representing workforce development and emergency medicine, as assigned by the System President;
 - (1) Maine CDC York County District Liaison;
 - (2) County Commissioners;
 - County Manager;
 - EMA Director;
 - County Fire Administrator.
- 1 (EMS Director - Non-Fire based) 01*


This committee will be charged with the overall planning and development of a strategic training and readiness center for York County. The committee will prepare a report that will include design, engineering, capabilities, and program specifications along with proposed operating needs. This committee will report as soon as possible within and according to the constraints of the American Rescue Plan Act.

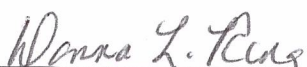
So ordered by the County Commissioners of the County of York.


Chairman Richard R. Dutremble


Richard Clark


Vice-Chairman Allen R. Sicard


Robert L. Andrews


Donna L. Ring