



**New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue  
Association, Inc.**

PO Box 254  
East Schodack, NY 12063

February 7, 2008

TO: Volunteer Ambulance Corps & Volunteer Fires Departments in NYC

FROM: Michael H. Wilhelm, Legislative Director, NYSVARA

Subject: NYC Council Intro. #519

As you may know Introduction #519 was a bill introduced into the City Council last year as a result of discussion between the local NYSVARA Districts in NYC and NYC Council Staff. It is only with your help that this legislation could be passed in the NYC Council, which would facilitate savings to our services through wholesale pricing and up front deduction of taxes.

Attached is a sample letter that was written by my department to our Council Member. I encourage all of you to contact your local City Council Member: write a letter, make a phone call, and arrange a meeting to request that the Intro. #519 be brought out of committee and to a vote. As you can see, we asked for the addition of Volunteer Fire Department vehicles to those able to purchase fuel and sanitation facilities to the locations where it can be purchased.

It is only with action and expressions of support that this piece of legislation will move forward. So, please take the time today to send a letter and make a phone call. Please send me a copy of any letters you may send. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me at 347-739-6947 or email me at [legislative@nysvara.org](mailto:legislative@nysvara.org).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


cc: Chairs, District 4 & 18, NYSVARA



**The RIDGEWOOD VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS. Inc.**

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For Ambulance

February 7, 2008

Honorable Diana Reyna  
New York City Council Member  
444 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11221

Dear Council Member Reyna:

We write with regard to Introduction # 519 which would allow non-profit Volunteer Ambulance Services in New York City to purchase fuel at a wholesale cost through New York City Police and Fire Department facilities. We feel that this is an excellent opportunity for the volunteer services in New York City to obtain some cost effective savings on a resource that is vital in their operation, at no cost to the City.

This legislation would allow volunteer ambulance services to purchase fuel from the city at the city's cost plus 5 percent. Currently, Volunteer Emergency Services in New York City pay retail prices on diesel and gasoline fuel and then must submit various time consuming forms to seek reimbursement for the taxes on these fuels. This can add up to thousands of dollars in fuel cost and hundreds of dollars in taxes. This legislation would both help reduce operating costs to these volunteer emergency service organizations and save time strapped volunteers' significant administrative headaches at no cost to the City.

We would also ask you to consider including emergency vehicles maintained by New York City's Volunteer Fire Departments in this legislation. It would also be beneficial to include sanitation facilities to the locations where fuel may be purchased since these facilities are located frequently, which would make purchase of the fuel more convenient for the Volunteer Services.

As I know you are aware, NYC's community volunteer ambulance corps and volunteer fire departments regularly respond to emergency calls from any resident or visitor in need in their community, provide emergency medical standby at local community events, serve as back-up services to the city's 911 system, and have answered the call for every recent major incident, which has occurred in our city. During the tragic events of September 11, 2001, scores of our City's Volunteer Emergency Services organizations answered the call to provide assistance, just as they have done throughout blackouts, blizzards and hurricanes. In addition, they serve as a crucial training ground for young people in their communities and for developing new emergency service personnel who often move on to higher education in the health care fields or careers with the NYPD, FDNY and FDNY-EMS. Particularly in these times when the emphasis is on Homeland Security and Safety, readiness among citizens, community emergency response teams, and disaster preparedness, the City's Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Volunteer Fire Departments provide a unique and invaluable resource for our city.

We are certain that New York City's community of volunteer emergency services providers would appreciate efforts to advance this legislation.

Thank you for your attention and support of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Wilhelm".

Michael H. Wilhelm  
Captain