

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 118-2021

A Resolution to establish a "Blue Alert System" to aid in the identification, location, and apprehension of any individual or individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding any Law Enforcement Officer, Ambulance Medical Technician, or Police Medic.

WHEREAS, there has been a dramatic increase in physical attacks against police officers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded police death in 1786, there have been more than 22,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, there have been 56,034 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2019, resulting in 17,188 injuries; and

WHEREAS, more than 700 federal, state and local law enforcement officers have sustained injuries on the job during nationwide protests in 2020; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature acknowledges the risk that all law enforcement officers take when they wear the uniform; and

WHEREAS, ambulance medical technicians and police medics provide lifesaving emergency medical service, respond to active crime scenes when necessary, and can encounter individuals who are violent and wish to cause them harm

WHEREAS, this Legislature believes that we should enlist the public's assistance in identifying, locating, and apprehending any individual or individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding any law enforcement officer, ambulance medical technician or police medic; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that in the instance of a serious injury or death of a police officer, ambulance medical technician or police medic, a "Blue Alert" may be issued in Nassau County; and

RESOLVED, that this Legislature directs the Nassau County Executive's Office to establish a "Blue Alert System" to aid in the identification, location, and apprehension of any individual or individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding any law enforcement officer, ambulance medical technician or police medic; and

RESOLVED, in the event of the issuance of a "Blue Alert", a notice will be sent out via mass communication alerting the public that a law enforcement officer, ambulance medical technician or police medic has been the subject of an attack, and shall contain pertinent information on the incident, potential suspects, and will advise residents to call 911; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Executive shall direct the Nassau County Police Commissioner to coordinate with public commercial television stations, radio broadcasters, and other news media to establish the "Blue Alert" system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Executive shall direct the Nassau County Police Commissioner to coordinate with each major telecommunication company to issue such a "Blue Alert" to all cellular phones within the county borders; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Police Commissioner or his or her designee(s) shall have sole authority to issue a "Blue Alert" in the event that a law enforcement officer, ambulance medical technician or police medic is killed or seriously wounded; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event of the issuance of a "Blue Alert", the Nassau County Police Commissioner shall submit written justification within 24 hours to the Nassau County Executive and the Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Nassau County Police Commissioner shall develop criteria and procedures for the blue alert system, and shall regularly review the function of the blue alert system and revise its criteria and procedures to provide for efficient and effective public notification; and be it further

RESOLVED, it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L., section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. and section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this ordinance is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.S(c) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.