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ANGELO SANTABARBARA  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

November 26, 2013

Harry C. Buffardi  
Rotterdam Town Supervisor  
Town Hall, John F. Kirvin Government Center  
1100 Sunrise Boulevard  
Rotterdam, NY 12306

Dear Supervisor Buffardi and Rotterdam Town Board Members:

As you know, there is a lot of apprehension and concern among Rotterdam residents regarding the Town Board's decision to accept bids for providing the town's emergency medical services (EMS). I understand their sentiments and share their concerns. Like many of us, I believe that Rotterdam EMS (REMS) has been a valuable asset to our community and the decision to replace it with another provider requires careful consideration.

As a concerned resident and state representative for the area, I am writing to respectfully request from you some details on the tentative agreement with Mohawk Ambulance Service to help ensure that any decision will impact the families and businesses in Rotterdam in a positive manner. First and foremost, my concerns are centered on the impact any decision will have on the health of our families in a time of medical emergency, as well as what it will mean for local property taxpayers.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of Rotterdam, I would appreciate if the Board could address the following and take these into consideration when making its final decision:

First, with regard to public safety: Should the board decide to go with a new service provider, will the agreement include a plan to ensure full coverage of the entire town and also to make sure that calls from Rotterdam residents in need of care are responded to as quickly or more quickly than the response times provided by REMS? Will the town board maintain strict oversight to ensure these conditions are met, and does the proposed agreement contain an escape or termination provision?

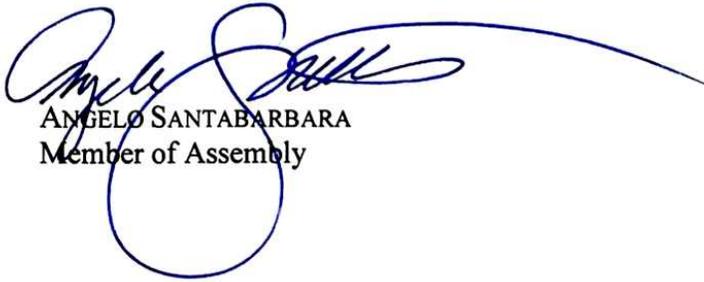
Second, I would like to gain a better understanding of the fiscal implications with respect to the proposed change in service provider. In this regard, I ask what a change in EMS provider would mean for the local property taxpayer? It has been reported that the proposal will save taxpayers between \$500,000 and \$700,000. Will these savings be used to provide direct property tax relief to homeowners and businesses? In addition, are the savings limited to the first year or are they recurring, and therefore will secure annual savings? Please provide a detailed breakdown of how these figures were determined so that I may assist town residents who contact my office and provide them with accurate information.

Third, I am concerned about the loss of employment for the nearly 50 individuals who currently work or volunteer for REMS – the vast majority being town residents. I ask that this be considered by the board before making any decision. If there is a loss of employment, I hope you will enact a plan to assist those employees with finding comparable employment as quickly as possible.

On a final note, it has come to my attention that all calls for emergency medical assistance are now being directed to another service provider. I ask that the Board consider evenly disbursing calls until a service provider is ultimately decided upon. Otherwise, it could be seen as unfair to the town's longtime service provider during the pendency of this important issue.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of these important matters facing our constituents. I look forward to your timely response. As always, if you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at 382-2941 or by email at [SantabarbaraA@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:SantabarbaraA@assembly.state.ny.us).

Sincerely,



ANGELO SANTABARBARA  
Member of Assembly