

PROCLAMATION

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING POLICE COMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS AS FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, *Police Communication Technicians (Technicians I-V) are currently incorrectly categorized in the federal government's Standard Occupational Classification System (SOCS) as an "Office and Administrative Support Occupation" (a category which also includes secretaries, office clerks, and taxicab dispatchers) which fails to recognize the central role emergency dispatch centers have in public safety and homeland security, their employees' specialized training and skills, and their uniquely stressful work environment; and*

WHEREAS, *the Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2019 (911 SAVES Act) would reclassify Police Communication Technicians as a Protective Service Occupations under the SOCS alongside peace officers, firefighters, and others whose jobs it is to protect our communities; and*

WHEREAS, *the 911 SAVES Act was introduced in the U.S. House on March 3, 2019 and in the U.S. Senate on April 3, 2019, and has since been stalled in Congress; and*

WHEREAS, *Police Communication Technicians provide critical public safety services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the same as peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel; and*

WHEREAS, *Police Communication Technicians are essential to the emergency response framework as they are the first line of communication for persons needing assistance and provide a lifeline to peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel on the field; and*

WHEREAS, *Police Communication Technicians deal with intense, life-and-death situations and are often communicating with people in states of great distress, harm, fear, and injury; and*

WHEREAS, *Police Communication Technicians are at increased risk for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to regularly managing traumatic call involving people in states of severe distress and fear; and*

WHEREAS, *Police Communication Technicians must gather and transmit all information necessary to for the response in addition to instructing callers on first aid and other life saving techniques pending arrival of field personnel; and*

WHEREAS, *jurisdictions across the nation have been taking action to recognize Police Communication Technicians as first responder. Including numerous states and other Colorado Counties and Municipalities; and*

WHEREAS, *under Senate Bill 20-026, the State of Colorado extended access to workers' compensation benefits, including mental health treatment, to workers who are audibly exposed to psychological traumatic events, in order to serve persons such as Police Communication Technicians who may be subject to listening to the psychologically traumatic events in the course of their employment; and*

WHEREAS, *without Police Communication Technicians, adequate public safety cannot be achieved.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

University of Colorado Boulder Police, Police Communication Technicians are hereby designated as First responders, in Boulder, Colorado, and shall be recognized in policy and procedural considerations regarding First Responders.

Signed and effective this 28th day of March, 2023

ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR, University of Colorado Boulder
Integrity, Safety, Compliance

Dan Jones
Dan Jones