



*Office of the Mayor
City of Tukwila, Washington*

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the federal government's Standard Occupational Classification System (SOCS) classifies workers into occupational categories for statistical purposes, based upon the nature of the work performed, and, in some cases, based upon the skills, education, or training needed to perform the work; and

WHEREAS, America's 911 Public-Safety Telecommunicators (PST) are incorrectly categorized in the SOCS as an "Office and Administrative Support Occupation", a category which includes secretarial staff and clerical workers; and

WHEREAS, classifying PSTs as "Protective Service Occupations" alongside police, firefighters, security guards, lifeguards, and others whose job it is to protect our communities would better reflect the work they perform, and align the SOCS with related classification systems; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2019, the 911 SAVES ACT, a bipartisan bill to reclassify 911 PSTs to "Protective Service Occupations" has stalled in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, nine states currently consider 911 PSTs as "First-Responders", and the Washington State 911 community is actively working to introduce similar legislation in Olympia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tukwila is served by Valley Communications Center 911, known as Valley Com 911, whose PSTs handle over 616,000 phone calls and over 472,000 dispatchable calls for service a year. Valley Com 911 PSTs are highly trained professionals who work under a uniquely stressful environment. Valley Com 911 PSTs are the first of the First Responders providing life-saving pre-arrival instructions, triage, mediation, de-escalation and the calm presence on the telephone and radio that is focused on both responder and public safety; and

WHEREAS, recognizing our 911 PSTs for the critical role in emergency response cannot and should not wait for the passage of the 911 SAVES ACT and believes that these local actions will help support and further similar legislation that 911 PSTs deserve;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Allan Ekberg, Mayor of the City of Tukwila, do hereby proclaim that the 911 Public-Safety Telecommunicators at Valley Communications Center 911 are recognized and elevated to the status of First Responders who serve our community.

Signed this tenth day of March, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Ekberg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Allan Ekberg, Mayor