



RESOLUTION 2026-23

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS AS FIRST RESPONDERS
AND AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE PUBLIC SAFETY FRAMEWORK**

WHEREAS, the County Commission recognizes that Public Safety Telecommunicators are a vital and irreplaceable component of the public safety framework, and without their dedication and expertise, effective emergency response would not be possible; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators serve as the first, first responder receiving emergency calls, gathering essential information, and making rapid, life-saving decisions that directly affect the outcome of incidents and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators provide care, compassion, and stability to citizens in their worst and most traumatic moments, and many Public Safety Telecommunicators experience the cumulative effects of PTSD and vicarious trauma as a result of their service; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, Public Safety Telecommunicators must continue answering emergency calls, monitoring radio traffic, coordinating responses, receiving and sending text messages, and increasingly managing streaming video and other emerging communication technologies; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators must be knowledgeable of not only their own agency's procedures but also the response protocols for every law enforcement, fire, EMS, and emergency management agency they support, often across multiple jurisdictions, municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the position of Public Safety Telecommunicator is a public safety role requiring independent judgment, rapid assessment, allocation of multi-jurisdictional resources, and the ability to coordinate complex emergency operations; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators also serve as the community's public safety intelligence resource by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating critical data and situational information to field responders and public safety officials who would not otherwise have timely access to such information; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are required to undergo extensive background checks, drug testing, academy-level training, emergency medical dispatch certification, and continuous education, ensuring they maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to execute their duties at the highest standard; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators often perform their duties with little or no formal liability protections or recognition under existing classifications, despite their central role in safeguarding life, property, and community welfare; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission supports statewide and national efforts to recognize and formally classify Public Safety Telecommunicators as First Responders and to reclassify their duties from clerical or administrative categories to “Protected Services”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Union County hereby formally recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators as First Responders and as essential personnel within the critical infrastructure of the public safety framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Commission acknowledges and honors the dedication, professionalism, and sacrifice of Public Safety Telecommunicators who serve as the lifeline between the public and emergency response personnel; and

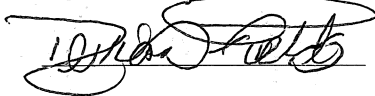
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Commission supports state and federal efforts to reclassify Public Safety Telecommunicators as “Protected Services” and to extend appropriate recognition, protections, and resources consistent with their essential role in public safety; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be entered into the official record of the County Commission and that copies may be provided to local, state, and national leaders in support of the formal recognition of Public Safety Telecommunicators as First Responders.

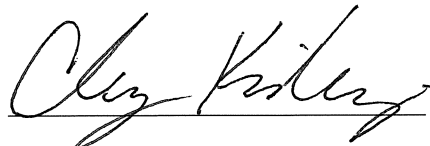
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

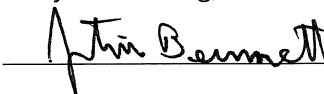
Attested by:



Devian Fields, County Clerk



Clayton Kiesling, Chairman



Justin Bennett, Member



Lloyd Miller, Member