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When thinking about first responders, I remember my school's drills. When the fire alarm is pulled, or an evacuation is taking place, the fire department, the police, and sometimes the ambulance are there. First responders aren't just what they work as, they are humans as well. They have feelings, they get tired, etc. With all of those things, they choose to put their lives on the line for us. Most of the time, people think first responders are doing what they have to do to get paid, but in reality, there are first responders out there that don't even work or get paid and still care for us. For example, our parents are the ones ready to open arms and take a bullet for us when needed because that is just how much they love us. Not only can first responders be our parents, but they can also be friends, teachers, and anyone else who is willing to help you when needed.

As first responders are so important to us personally, they are also important to Woodbridge Township. When in times of need, we may not always be able to help ourselves and fix what has affected us so dearly. That's why everyone needs a protector--or in this case, a first responder. Due to Woodbridge's population growing rapidly, there is a high chance of crimes occurring. In this case, we need protectors and those willing to protect our township. The Town Hall needs protection, our schools need protection, our homes need protection, and everything in this township. You can never truly know when you are safe, so having first responders can decrease that risk of danger.

As shown in the Woodbridge Independent article of July 24, 1925, "...Officer Egan, who was [an] official witness at the demise of 21 dogs at Donahuer's pound.." (Woodbridge Independent, July 24, 1925.) This evidence shows that Officer Egan was put to the case of finding a dog catcher unloading carcasses of the dogs into a body of water. Donahuer, the culprit, was found guilty and prosecuted by Luis E. Potter, executive officer of the Board of

Health. Working together, these first responders stopped the continuous cases of bodies found in the Rahway river. Luckily for the dogs, Donahuer resigned and was charged for the burial of the dogs that were put in the water. It is truly a miracle that Officer Egan was able to catch the culprit and stop the crimes from occurring rapidly as they did.

On October 21, 1932 in Fords, three women were found injured from a car crash as seen in the *Woodbridge Leader*. Evidence from the article includes, "...at the intersection of Crow's Mill road, collided with a car.." (*Woodbridge Leader*, October 21, 1932.) As a result of colliding, Grace Karmandy and Grace Hudak sustained cuts and bruises that were then treated at the Perth Amboy General hospital; the woman in the other car driving with her husband also sustained injuries that were then treated. As those injured were being treated, Officer Joseph Grady investigated the accident. This article's section shows that Perth Amboy combined with Woodbridge Township first responders are quickly responding to emergencies worth treating. Luckily, the victims of the accident weren't killed by one another, but both cars were badly damaged.

In Woodbridge on August 8, 1963, 27 guns were reported stolen from the Vest Gun Shop. Investigating the scene, police officers were looking for clues and more information to find the culprits. "...It indicates to us that they were familiar with the premises and they knew exactly what to do." (*The Independent Leader*, August 8, 1963.) Another piece of information from the article's section includes, "Lt. Arthur Donnelly is placing all available men on the theft, because of the danger involved in having so many guns." (*The Independent Leader*, August 8, 1963.) This information is understandable and lets us know that the officials are looking out for the township since having so much power in weapons is a big threat/deal. It is truly horrific how a huge amount of weapons can go to people that clearly can't be trusted by the looks of it. This is a great point on why the township needs first responders to look out for it.

As I end this essay, I wish for our first responders to be appreciated. With all the chaos still occurring from last year, some first responders are unappreciated for all the work they do.

When I was younger, I always thought about being a police officer when I am older. I am not sure why I wanted to be one, but maybe it's because I was inspired by them. Every single first responder is so fearless and courageous as they put their lives on the line for us every day. If Woodbridge Township didn't have first responders, I don't even think I'd be alive today, or at least alive in a safe community. Before criticizing someone that works as a first responder, remember that some people are different and want to change today's society while making us feel protected. Not everyone is a criminal or a bad person, so you have to give them a chance.