



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

April 29, 2015

15-00393

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

RE: Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team in support of area law enforcement agencies

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Fire Department is requesting permission to establish a Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team which will provide exclusive medical care to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams, suspects, and victims of violent crimes. Integrating paramedics with specialized training into the SWAT teams will greatly improve officer and civilian safety. TEMS paramedics will act as the medical conscience for the team both in dynamic and extended operations. Paramedics will be trained to function fully as a team member and may be called upon to fulfil other team tasks secondary to medical care. Participation by fire department members is voluntary.

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) believes that Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team is an essential component of military and tactical law enforcement teams. As an integral part of a tactical unit, TEMS helps maintain a health and safer environment for both law enforcement and the public. This unique subspecialty provides emergency care under extreme situations. Rapid management of injuries sustained during training or deployment requires proficiency in wound care, hazardous materials exposure, and evidence preservation. TEMS providers can provide medical insight during training, mission planning and deployment of TEMS teams.

TEMS trained paramedics will be provided to established SWAT teams including Racine Police Department and the Racine County Sheriff's Office when SWAT teams are activated for emergency operations. The Fire Department will provide all required training for paramedics, and will also provide all necessary equipment through existing budgetary resources. The Fire Department will also secure the necessary and appropriate licensing from the Department of Health Services (DHS) and Medical Direction. The Fire Department Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services will oversee the TEMS program.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief