

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: April 3, 2017

SUBJECT: Resolution – In Support House Bill 189 & Senate Bill 222

PRESENTER: Jimmy Brissie, Emergency Management & Rescue Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

- 1.) Resolution
- 2.) Letter of Support to Representative McGrady
- 3.) Letter of Support to Senator Chuck Edwards

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

North Carolina Division of Emergency Management operates a number of statewide search and rescue programs (SAR) in cooperation with local jurisdictions. These state-local partnerships have created a statewide response system of well trained and equipped responders which can be placed throughout the state when needs arise.

Henderson County sponsors two state teams, a swiftwater/flood rescue team and a mountain rescue team. During the fall of 2016 Henderson County provided assistance to eight counties in Eastern North Carolina during Hurricane Matthew. Less than a month later Henderson County received assistance from numerous state and local resources while battling the Party Rock Fire. Recently NC House Bill 189 & Senate Bill 222 were introduced to provide program clarification and state level sustainment funding for NC Emergency Management's SAR Programs. These bills, if approved, would continue to enhance the State programs and provide benefits to Henderson County as well as all the citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the attached Resolution as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Resolution in support of House Bill 189 & Senate Bill 222, Search and Rescue (SAR) Structure and funding initiative.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite #1
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855
www.hendersoncountync.org

J. MICHAEL EDNEY
Chairman
GRADY HAWKINS
Vice-Chairman

CHARLIE MESSER
WILLIAM G. LAPSLEY
THOMAS H. THOMPSON

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 189 & SENATE BILL 222, SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

WHEREAS, North Carolina is considered a leader in innovative search and rescue services;
and

WHEREAS, since the devastation of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the State Division of
Emergency Management has been working with local partners to build increased
capability for specialty rescue resources for ‘all hazards’ risks; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County has sent and received assistance around the state for disaster
support, with the most recent being the recipient of assistance for the Party Rock
fire in Fall of 2016; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County recognizes the benefit from the partnership with the State and
programs that it has developed; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County wishes to support HB 189 & SB 222 Search and Rescue
Structure and Funding to continue to enhance the partnerships between Henderson
County and the State of North Carolina Emergency Management;

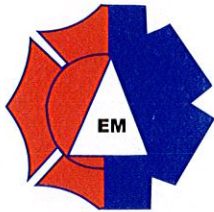
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Henderson County Board of
Commissioners, recognize the benefits that HB 189 & SB 222, Search and Rescue Structure and
Funding, provide for the citizens of Henderson County and the State of North Carolina, and
support these bills for NC Emergency Management’s SAR Programs.

Adopted this the 3rd day of April, 2017.

J. MICHAEL EDNEY, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD



HENDERSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

211 1st Avenue East
Hendersonville, NC 28792
(828) 697-4728 Fax (828) 698-6164

Rocky Hyder
Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - FIRE MARSHAL

697-4527

697-4825

697-4728

March 22, 2017

The Honorable NC Representative Chuck McGrady
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 304
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative McGrady,

I wanted to share my support for a Search and Rescue (SAR) structure and funding initiative in the House of Representatives, HB 189. Search and Rescue is a discipline which I hold very near for support and commitment. I have been involved with the Henderson County Rescue Squad since 1990, serving as Chief since 2000. Most recently I was hired as the Emergency Management & Rescue Coordinator for Henderson County, serving in this role under the guidance of Rocky Hyder.

For several years, North Carolina has been a leader in providing innovative SAR services to the citizens of North Carolina, however this has not always been the case. Following Hurricane Floyd the State Division of Emergency Management began working with local partners to build increased capability for specialty rescue resources for "all-hazards" risks (manmade & natural disasters). Today this capability has grown to a wide variety of local and state partnerships for providing lifesaving search and rescue teams. Henderson County is honored to provide two of these teams: one of 24 Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Teams statewide as well as one of five Mountain Search & Rescue Teams.

In October of 2016, 33 Henderson County rescuers spent 10 days assisting our neighbors in Eastern North Carolina during Hurricane Matthew. These personnel rescued 72 individuals and checked an additional 136 flooded residences across seven counties. In anticipation of the rising waters Henderson County teams were staged for five days in Pitt County for response to the Tar and Neuse River basins. The outpouring of local support was tremendous to our responders. A month later I received a phone call from the Pitt County Emergency Manager, he expressed his thanks for our support and informed me they were sending 15 firefighters and fire apparatus to the Party Rock Fire to support our wildfire operations. This mutual aid sharing of resources is the reason North Carolina is so well prepared. During January 2017, the Henderson County Mountain Rescue Team personnel spent two days working with other state and Haywood County responders searching the Shining Rock Wilderness for two subjects lost during a snowstorm. On the second day Haywood & Henderson County personnel ultimately assisted in the rescue of the subjects in conjunction with a NC National Guard Helicopter and the NCHART Team. These statewide SAR initiatives have drastically improved the capabilities across the state, especially in Henderson County. Our County has benefited from our partnership with the State and the programs we help develop.

Recently legislation has been introduced into the NC House of Representatives to enhance the existing SAR programs and provide much needed sustainment funding for these initiatives. I would hope you

would consider supporting House Bill 189 which will undoubtedly benefit the Citizens of Henderson County as well as all communities across North Carolina.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to see some of the capability we have been able to build in Henderson County to serve our community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Brissie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jimmy Brissie
Emergency Management & Rescue Coordinator



HENDERSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

211 1st Avenue East
Hendersonville, NC 28792
(828) 697-4728 Fax (828) 698-6164

Rocky Hyder
Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - FIRE MARSHAL

697-4527

697-4825

697-4728

March 22, 2017

The Honorable NC Senator Chuck Edwards
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2115
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Edwards,

I wanted to share my support for a Search and Rescue (SAR) structure and funding initiative in the Senate, SB 222. Search and Rescue is a discipline which I hold very near for support and commitment. I have been involved with the Henderson County Rescue Squad since 1990, serving as Chief since 2000. Most recently I was hired as the Emergency Management & Rescue Coordinator for Henderson County, serving in this role under the guidance of Rocky Hyder.

For several years, North Carolina has been a leader in providing innovative SAR services to the citizens of North Carolina, however this has not always been the case. Following Hurricane Floyd the State Division of Emergency Management began working with local partners to build increased capability for specialty rescue resources for "all-hazards" risks (manmade & natural disasters). Today this capability has grown to a wide variety of local and state partnerships for providing lifesaving search and rescue teams. Henderson County is honored to provide two of these teams: one of 24 Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Teams statewide as well as one of five Mountain Search & Rescue Teams.

In October of 2016, 33 Henderson County rescuers spent 10 days assisting our neighbors in Eastern North Carolina during Hurricane Matthew. These personnel rescued 72 individuals and checked an additional 136 flooded residences across seven counties. In anticipation of the rising waters Henderson County teams were staged for five days in Pitt County for response to the Tar and Neuse River basins. The outpouring of local support was tremendous to our responders. A month later I received a phone call from the Pitt County Emergency Manager, he expressed his thanks for our support and informed me they were sending 15 firefighters and fire apparatus to the Party Rock Fire to support our wildfire operations. This mutual aid sharing of resources is the reason North Carolina is so well prepared. During January 2017, the Henderson County Mountain Rescue Team personnel spent two days working with other state and Haywood County responders searching the Shining Rock Wilderness for two subjects lost during a snowstorm. On the second day Haywood & Henderson County personnel ultimately assisted in the rescue of the subjects in conjunction with a NC National Guard Helicopter and the NCHART Team. These statewide SAR initiatives have drastically improved the capabilities across the state, especially in Henderson County. Our County has benefited from our partnership with the State and the programs we help develop.

Recently legislation has been introduced into the NC Senate to enhance the existing SAR programs and provide much needed sustainment funding for these initiatives. I would hope you

would consider supporting Senate Bill 222 which will undoubtedly benefit the Citizens of Henderson County as well as all communities across North Carolina.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to see some of the capability we have been able to build in Henderson County to serve our community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Jimmy Brissie
Emergency Management & Rescue Coordinator