

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

City Charter of the City of Saginaw

Chapter XIX, Section 1. Back the Blue Public Safety Priority

- A. **Purpose and Focus:** The Back the Blue Public Safety Priority Charter Amendment aims to make public safety a top priority in the city. This includes recognizing the sacrifices made by Firefighters, Police Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and other First Responders. Citizens want to highlight their crucial roles and the risks they face while serving the community. By doing so, citizens hope to encourage more recruitment and retention of these essential personnel within the community. The people of the city express their solidarity with Firefighters, Police Officers, EMTs and other First Responders rather than with criminals. Therefore, the people outline the following priorities and guidelines for elected and appointed officials of the city government in this section. This provision does not raise taxes or fees, appropriate money or create any unfunded mandate for city government, but the city council is directed and authorized to the extent allowed under laws of the State of Michigan to enact related ordinances to effectuate this charter provision.
- B. **Training and Body Worn Cameras:** The city prioritizes training and equipping its Firefighters, Police Officers, EMTs, and other First Responders staff with body-worn cameras to enhance safety, transparency, and accountability.
- C. **Mitigating Risks:** The city declares it a priority to provide additional life insurance benefits to Firefighters, Police Officers, and First Responders in case of death due to criminal acts. This recognizes the constant risks these professionals face while on duty.
- D. **Emergency Interim Family Benefits.** Where possible, the city may extend emergency interim cash benefits within 30 days, to the families of Fire or Police Officers, EMTs and other First Responders killed in the line of duty, while waiting for life insurance benefit payments.
- E. **Crowdfunding Support:** The city may share a link or reference to an approved donation website to support families of Firefighters, Police Officers, EMTs, and other First Responders who are injured or killed in the line of duty, along with their surviving dependents.
- F. **Honoring Fallen Heroes:** With the family's consent, the city will officially honor Firefighters, Police Officers, EMTs, and other First Responders who are killed or injured in the line of duty. This includes publishing their names, likeness, and family testimonials on the city's official website, and allowing families to place memorial wreaths and ornaments in public places.
- G. **Victim Compensation.** Victims have the right to pursue civil action against anyone who physically injures Firefighters, Police Officers, EMTs or other First Responders during criminal acts. The perpetrator may be liable for treble damages to the injured or deceased officer or responder, or their surviving dependents.
- H. **Amendment or Repeal:** Any existing ordinances or resolutions that conflict with this charter provision are amended or repealed only to the extent necessary to ensure full compliance.
- I. **Severability:** If any part of this charter provision is deemed unconstitutional, void, illegal, or in conflict with state laws by a court of competent jurisdiction, that specific part will be removed. However, the remainder of the provision will remain in full force and effect.