



## Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Gary Eichelberger, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Vincent T. DiFilippo, Secretary

### Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### First County in PA Offers Real Estate Tax Credit to Firefighters, EMS Volunteers

*"This is a historic opportunity to recognize the value of our volunteer firefighters and EMTs," said Jerry Ozog, Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute*

**Carlisle, PA** – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners today announced a real estate tax credit for active firefighters and EMS volunteers who reside in the county. Under the Real Estate Tax Credit Ordinance, volunteers may be eligible for a tax credit up to \$250. The tax credit ordinance acknowledges the value and dedication of our volunteers and will help to retain and attract new volunteers.

Cumberland County is the first county in the state to implement an ordinance providing a real estate tax credit for active firefighters and EMS volunteers.

"This tax credit is very important for our volunteers who spend countless hours dedicating their time to saving lives," said Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. "They are a vital part of our community, and we need to retain the expertise of these men and women."

This tax credit for volunteers provides financial incentives in the form of credits against Cumberland County Real Estate Tax, excluding the Library Tax.

"As we work to implement this program for our volunteers, we call upon the other 66 counties in Pennsylvania to adopt a tax credit for their firefighters and EMS volunteers," said Commissioner Jean Foschi.

Eight of the counties' 33 municipalities have adopted a similar tax credit for volunteers including Hampden, Lower Allen, Upper Allen, Silver Spring, and South Middleton Townships, Carlisle, Lemoyne, and Wormleysburg Boroughs.

"Firefighters and EMS volunteers in good standing for at least six months during the time-period of Jan. 1 through Nov. 30 are encouraged to apply," said Commissioner Vince DiFilippo.

“The written certification needs to be submitted to the Cumberland County Commissioners Office, and volunteers need to apply every year to take advantage of the tax credit.”

Active volunteers who were injured during a response to an emergency call and can no longer serve as an active volunteer because of an injury, are eligible for the tax credit for the succeeding five tax years.

“This is a historic opportunity to recognize the value of our volunteer firefighters and EMTs,” said Jerry Ozog, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute. “Cumberland County is the first county in Pennsylvania to offer the volunteer emergency responder tax credit.

There will be a coordinated outreach designed to share the application process at volunteer fire and EMS stations across the county. Applications for the tax credit for firefighter and EMS volunteers will be available in the coming weeks. For more information visit [www.ccpa.net/5023](http://www.ccpa.net/5023).

***Editors' Note:***

*Special thanks to the Emergency Services Honor Guard – South Central Region, Members of the Hampden Township Good Hope Fire Station, the Hampden Township Commissioners and the active firefighters and EMS volunteers.*

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