

To the Town Council:

I am writing to you in support of the East Hampton Ambulance Association budget request for \$176,000 to continue to hire professional EMT staff to fill in some shifts that they cannot fill with their volunteer members. I am writing as an individual, not as Chair of the Commission on Aging, because the COA discussion of this matter will not occur until next week.

Please remember that there are approximately 2,180 adults aged 65 or over in our town. As you know, adults in this age group are understandably very focused on issues of health and disease and are the most common users of emergency ambulance services. Protecting their access to the rapid and reliable services that they now enjoy will bring them gratification and relief. On the other hand, putting their safety and security at risk will create anxiety and resentment.

I have personal experience with their services, as I dialed 911 two years ago when I had chest pain. As a doctor who spent much of my training in the emergency room, I was very impressed with their rapid and high-quality response to my needs. I also know as a doctor that with acute medical conditions such as stroke, heart attack, and hemorrhage, time is of the essence, and delays can be catastrophic.

Therefore I urge you to restore the funding requested by the East Hampton Ambulance Association, which has served our town for decades on a purely volunteer basis, but now needs to fund some shifts with paid EMTs.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Eric Rosenberg, MD**