



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Co-Chair: Brandon Toole, First District
Co-Chair: Kevin Caneco, Twelfth District

January 13, 2026
4:00 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR MEETING &
LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING
1ST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 N. FRENCH STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19801**

MINUTES

A. Meeting Call to Order

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 04:00 PM by Mr. Toole.

Members present: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Dee Durham, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street (virtual), David Tackett (virtual), Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Members absent: none

B. Approval of Minutes - December 9, 2025

A motion was made by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Cartier, to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2025, Public Safety Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

C. Review/Discussion of Resolution(s)

D. Review/Discussion of Ordinance(s)

°26-002: (TO BE CONSIDERED 1/27/26) AMENDING THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2 ("ADMINISTRATION"), ARTICLE 5 ("DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES") TO MODIFY THE COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco

Mr. Caneco started the discussion by asking clarifying questions for Mr. Art Lee, who was representing the County Executive's office. Public Safety Director Elmer Setting introduced Colonel James Leonard III, Chief of Police, (virtual) as well as Lisa Minutola, Assistant County Attorney who addressed questions. Participating in the discussion were Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Street, Mr. Smiley, Ms. Kilpatrick, and Council President Williams-Johns.

°26-003: (TO BE CONSIDERED 1/27/26) AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$74,959.44 IN STATE AID TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (SALLE) FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO THE STATE AID TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (SALLE) – FY2026 GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco

There were no questions or public comment.

E. Presentations**Paramedic Operations Update by Kelli Starr-Leach**

Assistant Chief of Operations Keilli Starr-Leach gave an informative presentation and update on the New Castle County EMS Service. Mr. Carter, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Hollins, and Mr. Cartier asked questions and participated in the discussion. Mr. Rob Bullock commented as a member of the public.

F. Other

Mr. Street spoke about a shooting in the city of Wilmington and the paramedic station in Southbridge. Mr. Hollins made a follow-up comment.

G. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

H. Adjournment

Mr. Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kilpatrick and the meeting was adjourned at 05:01 PM.

A white emergency medical services (EMS) van is parked on the side of a road. The van has "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES" written in large yellow letters on its side, along with "EMERGENCY" and "DIAL 9-1-1" in blue. A circular logo on the side of the van indicates it is "NCCAS ACCREDITED". In the background, several people in high-visibility vests are gathered around a red car that appears to be involved in an accident. The scene is outdoors on a paved road with a grassy area and trees in the distance.

New Castle County Operational Update

Kelli Starr-Leach
Assistant Chief of Operations

A yellow and red New Castle County Paramedic Emergency Medical Services truck is parked in a fire station. The truck has "NEW CASTLE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES" and "PARAMEDIC" written on its side. It also features a "DIAL 9-1-1" sign and a "NCEAS ACCREDITED" logo. The truck is parked in front of a large fire station door.

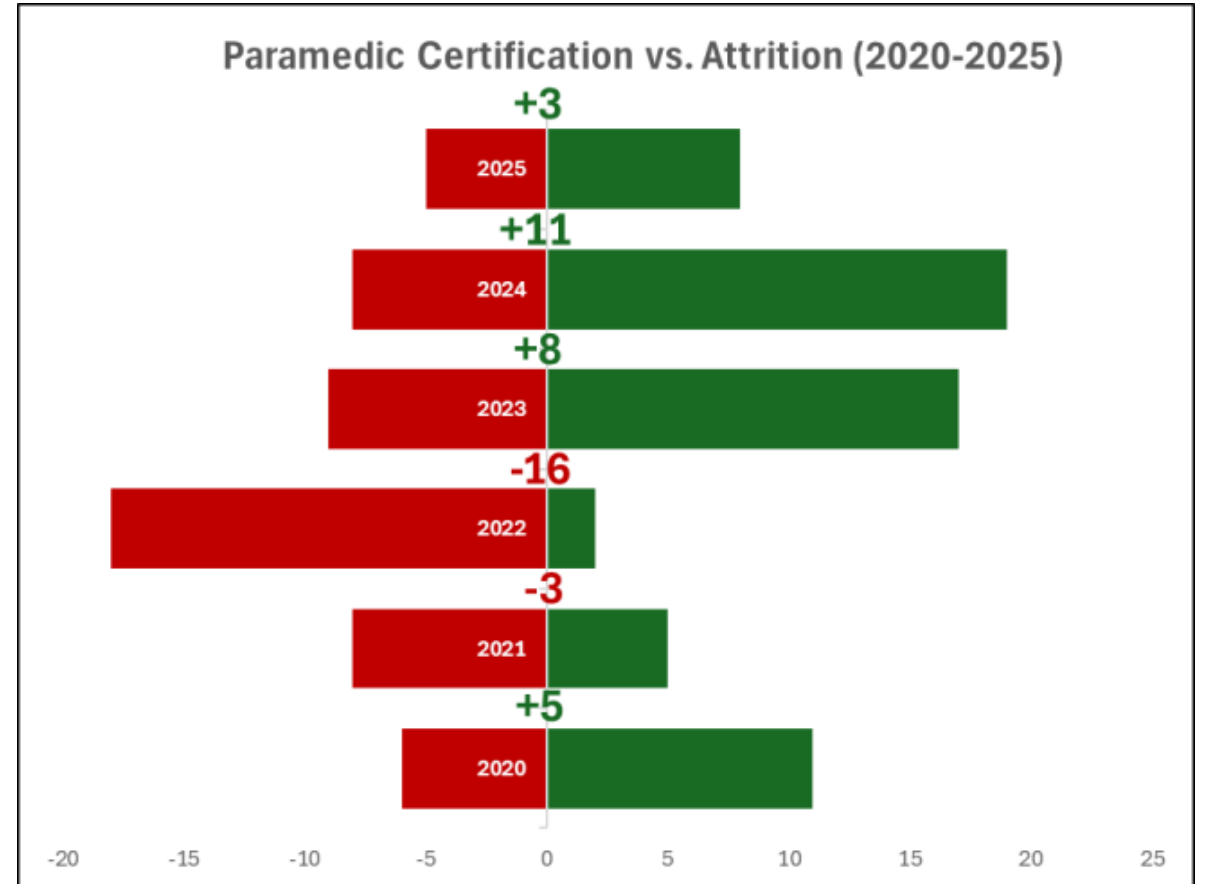
Overview

- Staffing
- Attrition
- Academies
- Blood and CPR Data
- Year-End-Totals
- New Policy: Cold to Charlie Calls



Attrition

“Over six years, NCCEMS certified 62 paramedics but lost 54 to retirements and resignations.”





Academies

- Six People in Field Training
- 7th Academy (15 people)

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- 8th Academy (**12 people)
- Average of 602 days from date of hire to certification

Accolades from 2025

CPR

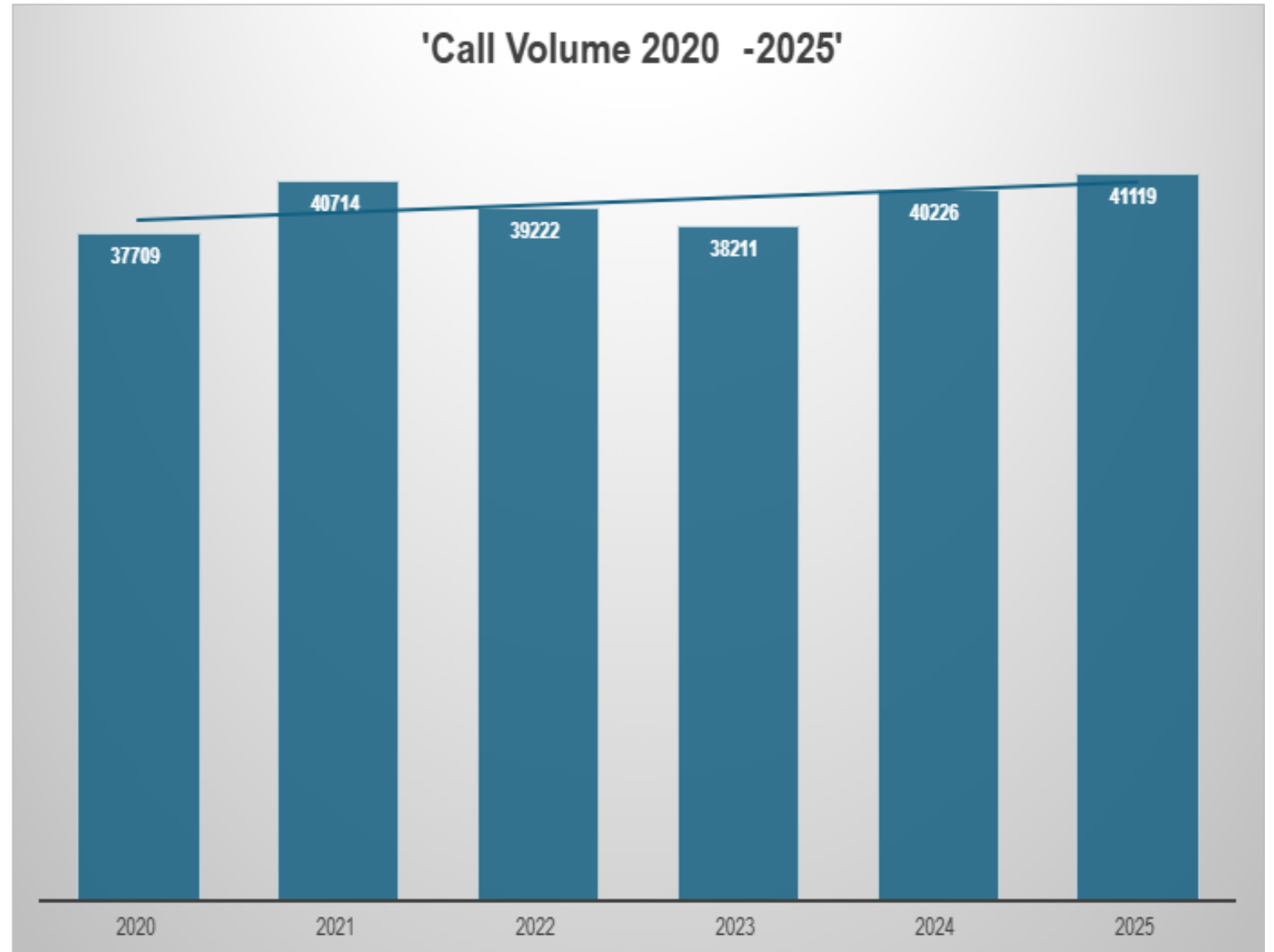
- New Castle County has a 40% Utstein Survival Rate
 - Above the National Average

Blood

- More than 300 units given since we started
- Delaware is the ONLY state in the country with 100% of the ground 911 ALS services carrying whole blood.



Year-End Totals



HOT

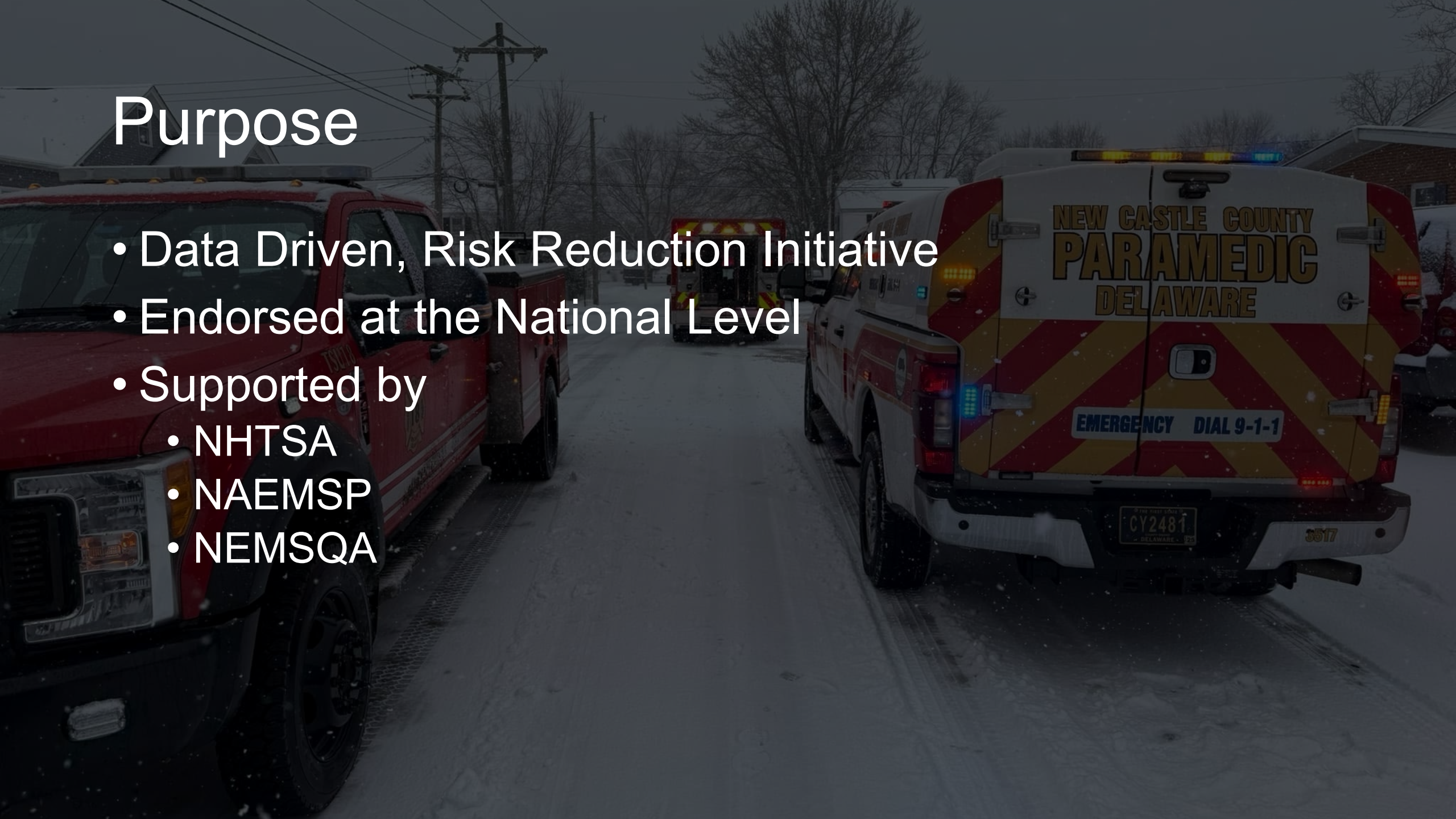


COLD



Purpose

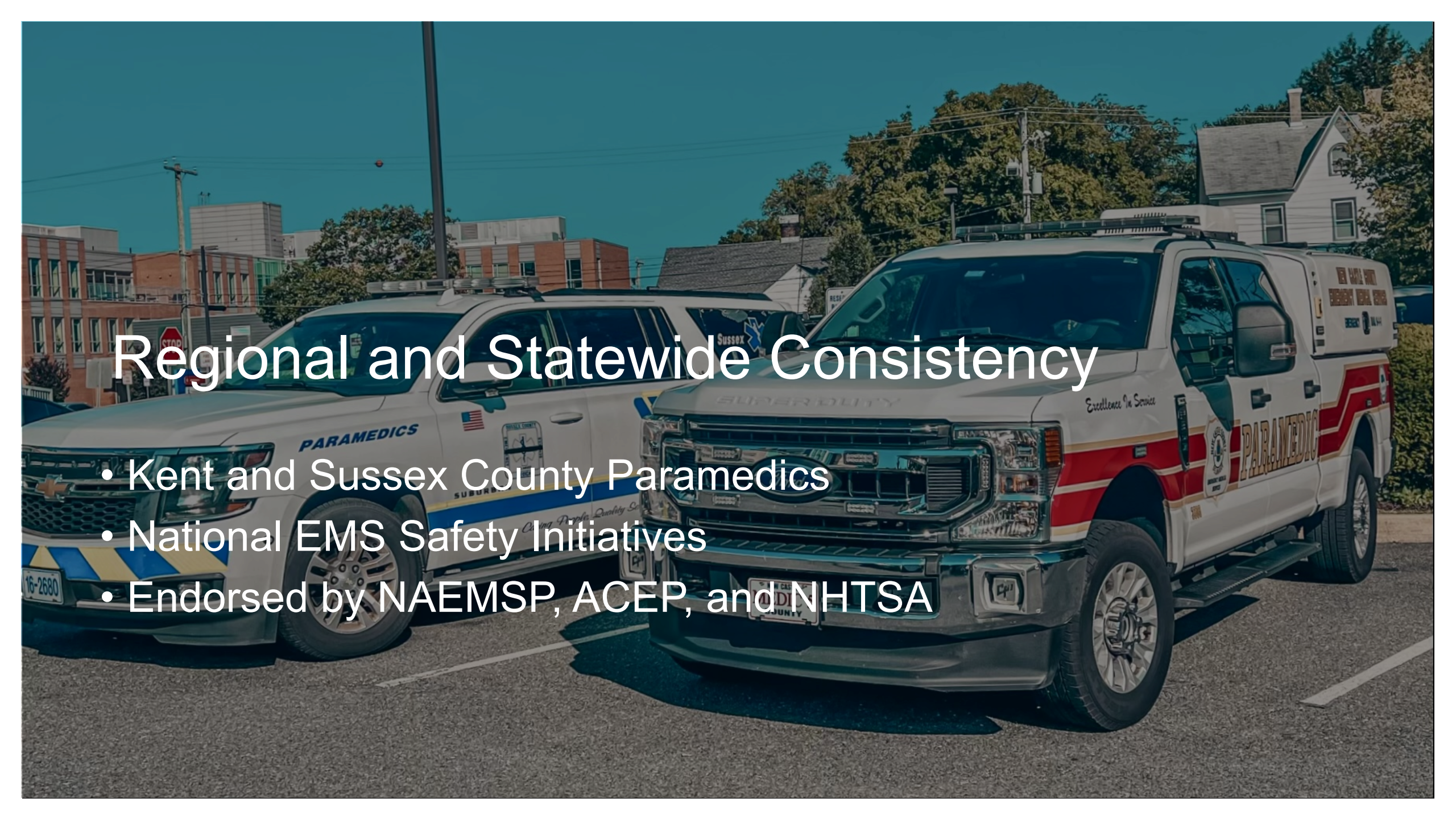
- Data Driven, Risk Reduction Initiative
- Endorsed at the National Level
- Supported by
 - NHTSA
 - NAEMSP
 - NEMSQA





Evidence

- 30% of our ALS patient contacts were from Charlie Level Calls
- <2% of those required a Time Sensitive Intervention
- Response time increase of 55 seconds to Charlie calls
- Overall response times have increased by 15 seconds
- Our system is working



Regional and Statewide Consistency

- Kent and Sussex County Paramedics
- National EMS Safety Initiatives
- Endorsed by NAEMSP, ACEP, and NHTSA

What does this mean?

- BLS ambulance is still responding “hot” to Charlie calls
- BLS has the ability to upgrade
- ALS has the ability to upgrade

The right level of response, at the right speed, for the right types of emergencies.

