

Thursday, March 24, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Wildwood, North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest Regarding the Shore Communities' Regional Emergency Services Consolidation Study of the Wildwoods

Wildwood, North Wildwood, Wildwood Crest – Since 2019, the cities of Wildwood and North Wildwood and the Borough of Wildwood Crest have been exploring opportunities for the island-wide consolidation of career fire and EMS services.

In 2020, efforts to produce a study were funded by a New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) LEAP Challenge Grant. The ultimate goals of the study were to identify savings opportunities and potential operational improvements that, in theory, may benefit from a consolidation of those municipal departments.

On behalf of Wildwood, North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, the Center for Government Research (CGR) collected, extrapolated and analyzed real data provided by each of the three (3) municipal departments specific to fire/EMS calls, manpower, equipment, facilities, salaries/wages/benefits and bargaining contracts. A study was produced and will soon be finalized and is now available for download on each of the three municipal websites.

While the draft study provides valuable information and recommendations for consideration that will certainly improve local island-wide fire/EMS operations, the governing bodies of Wildwood, North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest have agreed that at this present time there is no immediate need or benefit to pursue a consolidation. The study will remain a valuable document and analysis of local municipal fire/EMS operations combined and individually, and may be used as a reference for potential consolidation or shared services in the future.

###