

# Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Service to Upper Northwest DC

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G Presentation (Virtual)

June 28, 2021

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE RESCUE SQUAD

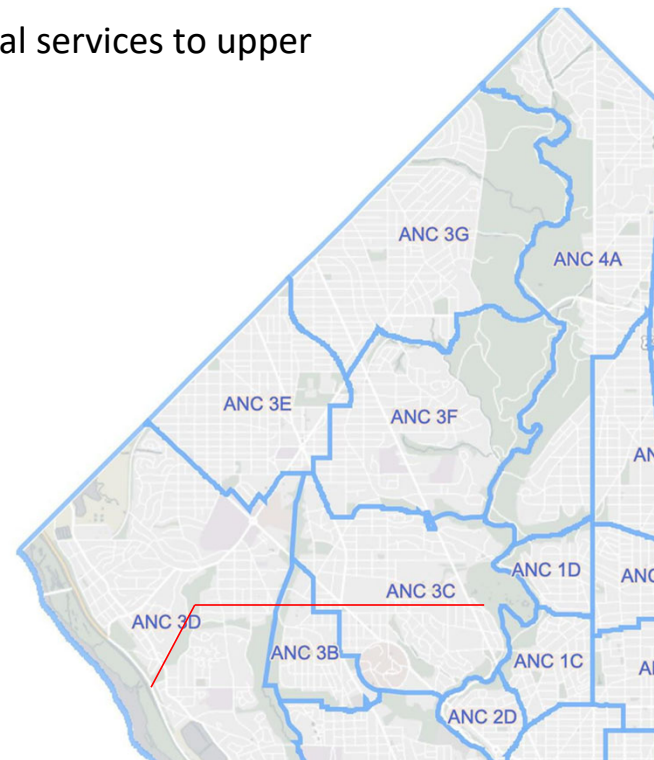


# BCCRS Service v. ANC Boundaries

(DC FEMS/BCCRS Memorandum of Agreement, May 2001)



BCCRS has played a significant role providing emergency medical services to upper Northwest DC residents since 1947.



## Bottom Line Up Front

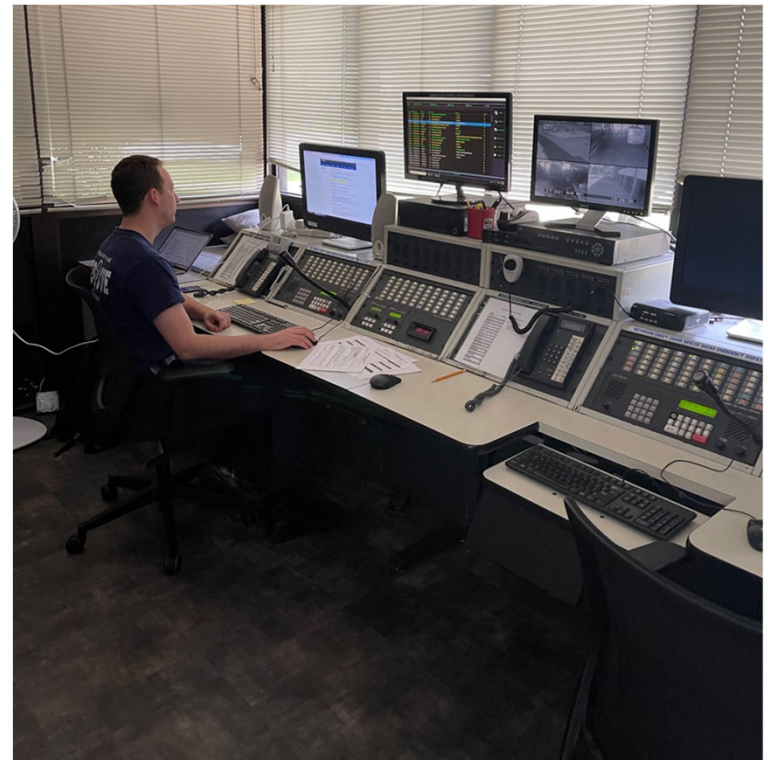


- Our time-honored tradition of service includes a duty to continually evaluate the need for and impact of our service and honestly communicate with the community about its value and our capabilities.
- BCCRS leadership has undertaken a review of our service, including speaking with DC and Montgomery County government officials, and is now reaching out to citizens groups with our initial findings and concerns.
- BCCRS has paused fundraising activities in DC and they will not resume until this evaluation process is over and we commit to additional service.
- **We anticipate announcing the results of our review and decision about future service later this summer**, including whether we intend to work to renew or cancel the Memorandum of Agreement with the DC Fire and EMS Department.
- **Our 301-652-1000 emergency line remains operational today and we continue to respond to DC calls for service until a decision is made and changes are communicated to the public.**

# A Call To 301-652-1000



- A trained Emergency Medical Technician at BCCRS answers, determines the nature of the call, and collects address/telephone information.
- BCCRS has access to basic Verizon Caller ID but not Automatic Number or Location Identification services provided to 911 centers.
- The BCCRS dispatcher notifies DC Office of Unified Communications (DC OUC).
- OUC adds resources at their discretion.
- BCCRS dispatches a BLS ambulance.
- BCCRS cannot dispatch paramedics without DC authorization.





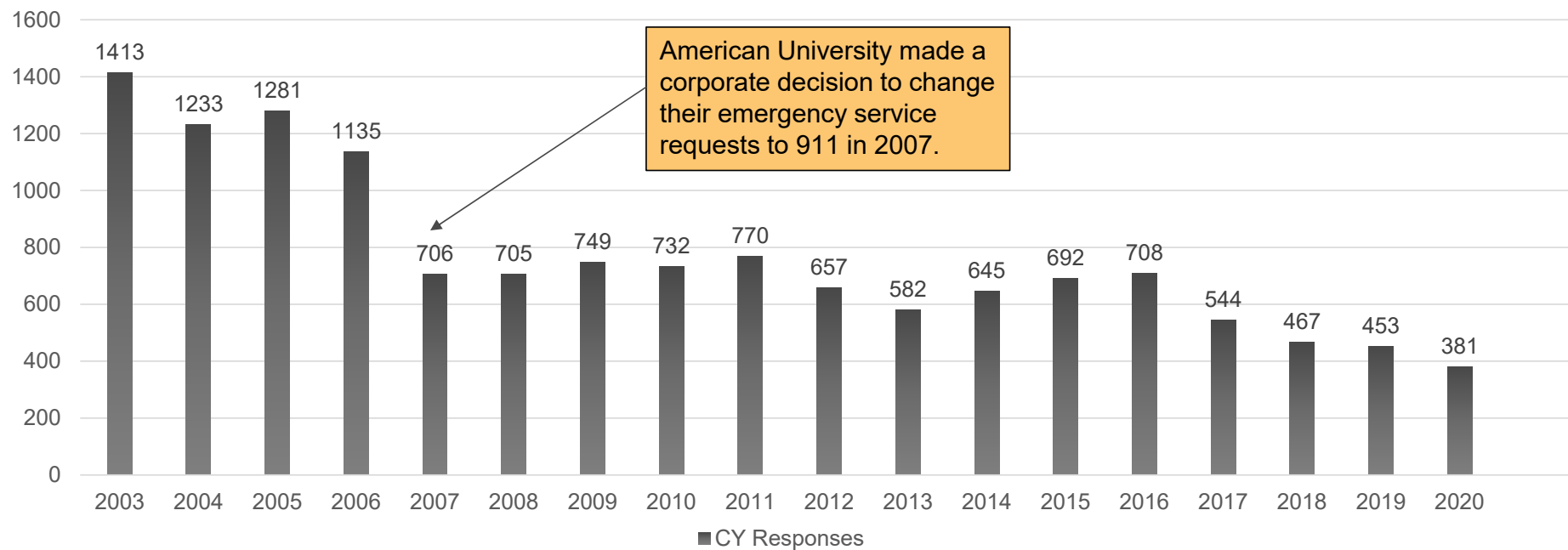
# BCCRS Response/Transport



- The dispatched BCCRS and DC units arrive and conduct patient care in accordance with established medical protocols.
- Rarely, if BCCRS resources are committed on other emergencies, BCCRS will notify DC OUC and not send a resource.
- Transport is completed by either BCCRS or DC Fire depending on the nature of care needed. Patients requiring advanced life support are most likely transported by DC.
- Hospital transport destination decisions:
  - Patient condition
  - Capabilities of hospitals, i.e. trauma center or stroke center
  - Hospital availability & patient preference



# BCCRS Responses to DC CY2003 - CY2020

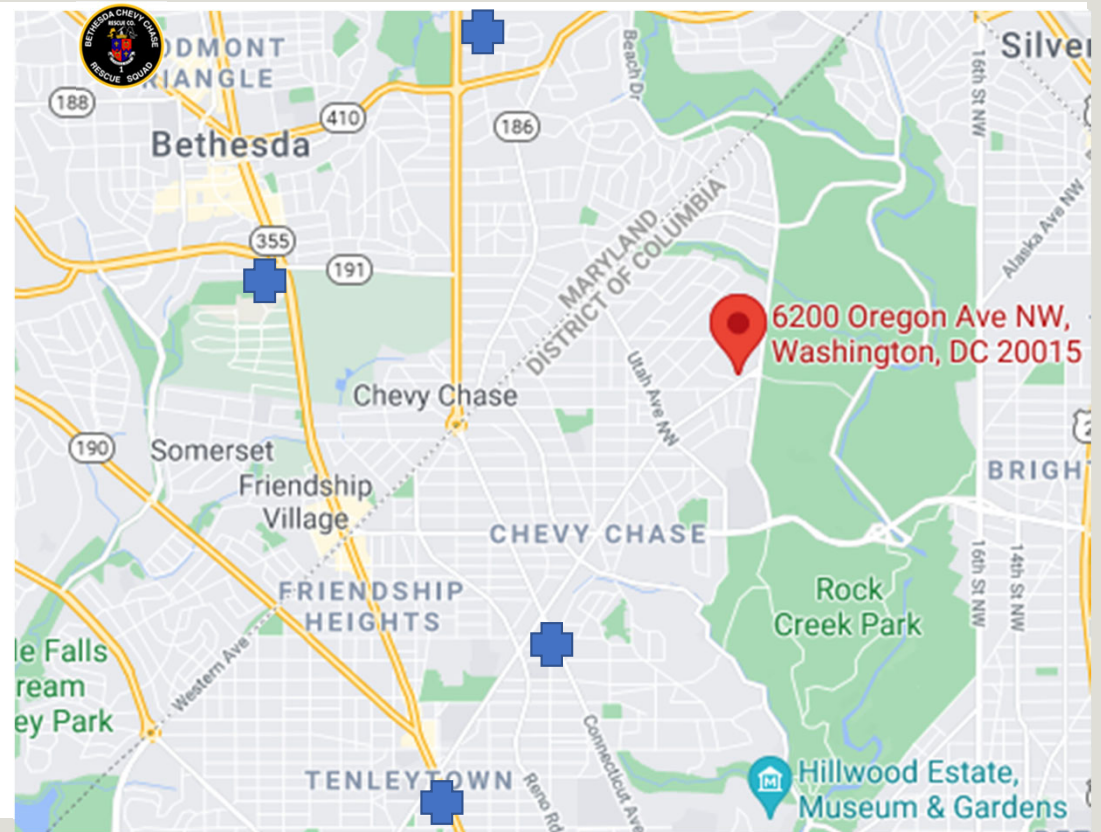


# Response Distances



## 6200 Oregon Avenue NW

- 1.9 miles from DC Station 31
- 2.4 miles from MCFRS Station 6
- 2.7 miles from DC Station 20
- 2.9 miles from MCFRS Station 7
- 3.7 miles from BCCRS



# Response Distances



- 3825 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
  - 0.5 miles from DC Station 20
  - 1.0 miles from DC Station 28
  - 1.4 miles from DC Station 31
  - 2.0 miles from DC Station 5
  - 2.8 miles MCFRS Station 6
  - 4.0 miles from BCCRS
- 4901 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
  - 1.3 miles from DC Station 20
  - 1.9 miles from MCFRS Station 11
  - 2.0 miles from DC Station 31
  - 2.7 mile from MCFRS Station 6
  - 3.7 miles from BCCRS

All stations on this list provide ALS either by engine or medic unit.

Factors slowing response:

- Traffic
- Safe Speed & Legal Restrictions



## Discussion Points



- BCCRS's culture is deeply rooted in operational excellence—we must ensure we are looking out for the interests of the community at-large based on the evolution of a modern, evidence-based and safe EMS system. The leadership team brings these values to our analysis and decisions.
- The DC Fire and EMS Department has substantially improved its EMS service to the citizens and residents of DC since BCCRS and DC FEMS entered the May 10, 2001, Memorandum of Agreement. Many of the assumptions that underpin the MOA are no longer valid.
- DC Fire and EMS now has a paramedic resource in every station in the BCCRS service area except Station 28 (Connecticut Avenue & Porter Streets, NW) plus increased system capacity via the agreement with American Medical Response (AMR).
- The proliferation of cell phones and evolution of 911 technology have altered the dispatch landscape. Features available to dispatchers handling calls using Enhanced 911 (E911) are far superior to 10-digit dialing and this is a **great operational concern** for BCCRS leadership in terms of the chain of survival.

# Discussion Points



- DC does **not** exercise the BCCRS/DC MOA provision that allows BCCRS to send ALS service to DC because DC has closer units.
- The proliferation of ALS has also occurred in Montgomery County and stations closer to DC than BCCRS now are capable of being utilized if a mutual aid agreement were to be considered by government officials to automatically send the closest resource.
- Montgomery County Law now requires any new BCCRS agreements with DC Fire and EMS to be approved by the Montgomery County Council.
- Discussions with leadership of DC Fire and EMS, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, and our representative on the Montgomery County Council indicate that such approval of a revised MOA is unlikely.
- If adopted, a more traditional mutual aid agreement would dispatch the closest unit which would **not** be BCCRS in most instances.

# Summary



- BCCRS leadership has begun a review of the current value of our service to the residents of Upper Northwest DC. The two issues most responsible for this review are:
  - Distance and availability of BLS and ALS resources to the community
  - Inability to receive parity with 911/PSAP technical capabilities in BCCRS dispatch operations
- BCCRS has paused fundraising activities in DC and they will not resume until this evaluation process is over and we commit to additional service.
- **We anticipate announcing the results of our review and decision about future service later this summer**, including whether we intend to work to renew or cancel the Memorandum of Agreement with the DC Fire and EMS Department.
- **Our 301-652-1000 emergency line remains operational today and we continue to respond to DC calls for service until a decision is made and changes are communicated to the public.**

# Contact Information



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