

To Ben Retmier, Chief and the Tri Town Ambulance Committee,

Tri Town Ambulance is an integral part of the up island community. We take our role of providing the finest prehospital care seriously and believe the members of our community deserve the highest quality of care. EMS on Martha's Vineyard has grown exponentially over the past 10 years with the introduction of Paramedics to the system. Tri Town has grown from an all-volunteer Basic EMT squad with a staff of two to a staff of 5 full time paramedics and one office employee along with our volunteers. Looking back the change to include paramedics in our prehospital care came the best time. With the projected growth of the aging population of the Tri Town area and the Island in general, the need for ambulance services is only growing.

The history of Tri Town leadership has not always allowed us to move forward smoothly and growth has been difficult at times. There were constant distractions as to wondering who was in charge, where they were and if they supported our goal of quality squad. Under the leadership of Chief Ben Retmier and Deputy Chief Matt Montanile, the squad finally feels confident that we have leaders in line with the goal of growing the squad in a positive direction. They have eliminated the daily distractions and provided stability to our squad. This has allowed us to look at the bigger picture and evaluate issues in front of us. The issues are not new; we are finally at a point where we have the time to address them.

Tri Town Ambulance is the second municipal largest department in the Tri Town area; second only to the Up Island Regional School District. We are able to **offset** our budget by through the revenue earned through charging for ambulance calls. Approximately \$200,000 in revenue is paid to Tri Town Ambulance each year with seventy-five percent these moneys to the three towns general operating funds. We are continuously training to learn new procedures and protocols as well as keep up our skill level. The squad as a whole works hard to earn the respect of those around us. Yet somehow, we are treated as and told we are guests at the stations. There is always something of ours in the way since we do not have adequate storage facilities and we are the ones that are held responsible if something should go wrong. We cannot make our own decisions regarding the spaces we occupy and when we do we are reminded it is not ours to do with as we would like. We need space that is dedicated Tri Town and does not require approval of another chief.

A second concern is the conditions of the stations. The bathroom facilities are substandard, proper office facilities or a day room to work at, not all stations have appropriate facilities to decontaminate ourselves or clothing if we need after a call. The Chilmark Station does not have a working restroom nor is there an appropriate place to sit while on duty.

None of the locations we work from were intended for Tri Town. We were moved into these areas since we need to be located by the ambulance. These locations served our needs in the past but with our growth a central location with the appropriate facilities is necessary. We need our leadership to help obtain with a location for Tri Town that provides for a HIPPA compliant office, day room with an area dedicated to training for EMT/Paramedics, bathrooms with showering facilities and bunk rooms for male and female employees and at least one bay for an ambulance. Ideally, this would be centrally located out of Chilmark with satellite locations available in the other two towns next to the ambulances.

We are proud to be members of the Tri Town Ambulance and look forward to continuing our work in our community. The squad looks forward working with our leadership to discuss reaching our goal of having a location that is ours. The Tri Town squad meets the third Wednesday of each month and respectfully requests you meet with us at our May or June meeting so we can begin this important discussion

Respectfully submitted by,

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