



BOROUGH OF BOGOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 1650

PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION

DATE: 02-05-26

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE
BOGOTA CODE, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION"**

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council President L. Kohles			✓				
Councilmember C. Carpenter	✓		✓				
Councilmember W. Hordern					✓		
Councilmember P. McHale		✓	✓				
Councilmember J. Mitchell			✓				
Councilmember D. Vergara			✓				

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Fede- Before consideration of Ordinance 1650, Mayor Fede left the dais and objected to the findings in the preamble of the ordinance. She did not sign the introduction of the ordinance and would not sign the final version. The merger has resulted in the loss of volunteers, loss of services, and no measurable cost savings. She recently attended a meeting where it was suggested that a community environmental response team (CERT) be formed to assist the Fire Department and Police which does not make sense when the Rescue Squad could provide those services.
- Rebecca Foster was told that the Borough was thinking about paying volunteers or DPW workers to perform some of the duties that the Rescue Squad used to provide. The process from September to date would have been easier to accept if the Council declared at the outset it was going to get rid of the Rescue Squad rather than force a merger.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council President L. Kohles			✓				
Councilmember C. Carpenter	✓		✓				
Councilmember W. Hordern					✓		
Councilmember P. McHale			✓				
Councilmember J. Mitchell			✓				
Councilmember D. Vergara		✓	✓				

ADOPTION:

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council President L. Kohles			✓				
Councilmember C. Carpenter	✓		✓				
Councilmember W. Hordern					✓		
Councilmember P. McHale		✓	✓				
Councilmember J. Mitchell			✓				
Councilmember D. Vergara			✓				



**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE
BOGOTA CODE, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION"**

Repeal Section 2-16 of the Bogota Code, entitled "Rescue Squad"

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Bogota Code sets forth the administrative rules and regulations applicable within the Borough; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2-16 of Chapter 2 sets forth the rules and regulations applicable to the Bogota Rescue Squad; and,

WHEREAS, following the recommendations of a report prepared by the Audit Committee established by the Mayor and Council on April 3, 2025, the Bogota Council adopted Resolution #2025-251 at its regularly scheduled meeting of December 4, 2025, which, *inter alia*, transferred the responsibilities of the Bogota Rescue Squad to the Bogota Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution #2025-263 at its regularly scheduled meeting of December 18, 2025, which appointed the members of the Bogota Rescue Squad as probationary members of the Bogota Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned appointments were to facilitate the merger of the Bogota Rescue Squad's responsibilities with the Bogota Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to repeal Section 2-16 of Chapter 2 of the Bogota Code, since the responsibilities of the Bogota Rescue Squad have been transferred to the Bogota Fire Department, and its members have been provided the option to join the Bogota Fire Department through its appointment as probationary members of that Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, that Chapter 2 of the Bogota Code is hereby amended, revised and supplemented as follows:



SECTION 1: REPEAL OF SECTION 2-16, ENTITLED “RESCUE SQUAD”.

Section 2-16, entitled “Rescue Squad” is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 2: AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2-9, ENTITLED “VOLUNTEER TRUST”

Section 2-9.2, entitled “Trustees” is hereby amended, revised and supplemented as follows:

The trustees of the Bogota Volunteer Trust, Inc., shall consist of the following members:

- a.** The mayor, or his or her designee.
- b.** Two (2) members elected for an annual term by each of the following:
 - 1.** The volunteer fire department.
 - 2.** ~~The first aid squad.~~
 - 3.** ~~The rescue squad.~~

SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portions of the Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect, and for this purpose the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 4: INCONSISTENCY.

Any and all ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.



SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

CERTIFICATION

✓

ATTEST:

Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:

Council President

I, Melissa Baque, Deputy Clerk of the Borough of Bogota, Bergen County, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct and true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Borough of Bogota at a meeting held on 02-05-26.