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COLLINS  
04/14/2026

**AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 7; ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT; ARTICLE IX, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO APPOINT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AS FIRST RESPONDERS**

WHEREAS, Chapter 7; Administration of Government; Article IX, Department of Public Works authorizes the Director of the Department of Public Works to perform certain duties; and

WHEREAS, during the recent winter storm Hernando, many of the employees of the Department of Public Works performed expedient and essential services to keep the city's roads and other city functions open and operating as well as keeping its residents safe; and

WHEREAS, the essential operations these Department of Public Works employees allowed other City and Camden County First responders to perform their essential functions, including police and fire services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Camden recognizes that the designation of certain DPW employees as First Responders is consistent with operational practice under the National Response Framework (Emergency Support Function #3 — Public Works & Engineering) and the State of New Jersey Emergency Operations Plan; and

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 (HSPD-8, December 17, 2003) formally defines 'first responders' to include public works personnel responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Civil Defense and Disaster Control Act (N.J.S.A. App. A:9-33 et seq.) and the NJ Office of Emergency Management recognize public works departments as integral components of municipal emergency response; and"

WHEREAS, currently, the Camden Code does not currently authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works to identify any employee of the Department of Public Works as a "First Responder";

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Camden now seeks to authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works to designate certain employees in the Department of Public Works as "First Responders";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Camden as follows:

**AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLE IX**

§ 7-40. Establishment; Director of Public Works; Division of Buildings and Grounds.

- A. Same.
- B. Same.
- C. Same.
- D. The Director may designate certain Department of Public Works employees as 'First Responders' to perform City functions during declared or imminent City emergencies as defined herein. For purposes of this section, 'City emergency' shall include any event or condition that requires emergency activation of City resources, including but not limited to natural disasters, severe weather events, infrastructure failures, declared states of emergency, and any other condition posing an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare of the City of Camden.
- E. Designated employees shall, at a minimum, be employees whose assigned duties during an emergency directly support the life-safety mission of the City, including but not limited to road clearance, debris removal, infrastructure restoration, and hazard mitigation. Designated employees shall complete such National Incident Management System (NIMS) training as may be required by the City's Emergency Operations Plan or by the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management."
- F. The Director shall provide the Business Administrator and the City's Emergency Management Coordinator (if not the Director) with a list of Department of Public Works employees designated as

'First Responders.' Such list shall be incorporated into or referenced in the City's Emergency Operations Plan and shall be updated annually, or more frequently as circumstances require. Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer upon any designated employee the statutory benefits, presumptions, or legal status provided under state law, including but not limited to, those benefits, presumptions or legal status provided exclusively to law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical services personnel.

G. Definitions.

- (1) "City Emergency" means a declared emergency as defined in proposed §7-40(D) above, or as declared by the Mayor pursuant to Camden Code Chapter 320.
- (2) "First Responder" (for DPW purposes) means a DPW employee designated by the Director pursuant to §7-40 (D) to perform essential infrastructure and access functions during a City Emergency, consistent with the definition of 'first responder' in HSPD-8 (2003) and the National Response Framework.
- (3) "NIMS": The National Incident Management System, as established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and adopted by the State of New Jersey pursuant to NJOEM Directive NJOEM-1 (2021).

H. [Former D] Same.

I. [Former E] Same.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistency only.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after its final passage and publication as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance. Furthermore, the other provisions of this ordinance are deemed to be severable and remain in full force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27BBB-23 and N.J.S.A. 40:69A-41, a true copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the Mayor, who shall have ten (10) days from the receipt thereof to approve or veto this Ordinance. Additionally, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27BBB-23, a true copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the State Commissioner of Community Affairs, who shall have ten (10) days from the receipt thereof to veto this Ordinance, and the action by the Commissioner regarding this Ordinance shall supersede any action by the Mayor on the same Ordinance. All notices of approval and/or veto shall be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Date of Introduction: April 14, 2026

The above has been reviewed and approved as to form.



DANIEL S. BLACKBURN  
City Attorney

  
ANGEL FUENTES  
President City Council  
VICTOR CARSTARPHEN  
Mayor

ATTEST:



LUIS PASTORIZA  
Municipal Clerk



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CITY OF CAMDEN  
NEW JERSEY

VICTOR G. CARSTARPHEN  
MAYOR

LUIS PASTORIZA, M.S.M., R.M.C, C.M.R.  
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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 13, 2026  
**TO:** Victor Carstarphen, Mayor  
**FROM:** Luis Pastoriza, Municipal Clerk  
**RE:** Ordinance Final Passage – (MC-5635)

**Amendment To Chapter 7; Administration Of Government; Article Ix, Department Of Public Works, To Authorize The Director Of The Department Of Public Works To Appoint Certain Employees As First Responders**

In accordance with Rule XIX of the Administrative Code of the City of Camden (Rules of Procedure governing the City Council), I am delivering to you the attached ordinance adopted by City Council at a **Regular** meeting held on **5-12-2026**. Said article provides that "each ordinance shall be returned by the Mayor to the Municipal Clerk after the Mayor has affixed his /her signature thereto or after the expiration of **ten (10) days** from the date of its delivery to the Mayor in any event."

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	
Received by: _____	Date: <u>5/13/26</u>
Date of Approval: _____	<u>5/27/26</u>