

ORDINANCE NUMBER 18-2021

*An Ordinance to Amend the Lambertville City Code, 2014, Chapter 2, Article X, Department of Public Safety, Section 2-10.4 Office of Emergency Management, Establishing A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program for the City of Lambertville.*

WHEREAS, the Mayor, City Council and the City Emergency Management Coordinator recognize the willingness of local residents to be involved in their community by volunteering during times of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") offers a Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") Program which educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations; and

WHEREAS, using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help; and

WHEREAS, CERT members are more encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community; and

WHEREAS, the CERT course will provide the auxiliary members the training to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey that Chapter 2, Article X, Section 2-10.4, Office of Emergency Management, is hereby amended to include the following language (additions underlined):

Section 2-10.4 Office of Emergency Management

a. Within the Department of Public Safety there shall be an Office of Emergency Management, the head of which shall be the Municipal Coordinator of Emergency Management who shall be appointed by the Mayor and Council and who shall have such powers and duties as set forth in N.J.S.A. Appendix A:9-30 et seq. and the rules as promulgated by the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

b. Under the direction of the coordinator there shall be established a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) created to serve as auxiliary members of the Office of Emergency Management during disasters and special events.

All members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be appointed by the Governing Body, and will be required to complete the training offered by FEMA or the County of Hunterdon Office of Emergency Management.

The purpose of the CERT Team is as follows:

1. Supplement the City's response capability after a disaster or during special events, serving as auxiliary members of the Office of Emergency Management;
2. During and after an emergency or disaster, provide immediate assistance to victims, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster;
3. Provide assistance with traffic flow when needed;
4. Participate in meetings for the Office of Emergency Management;
5. Provide assistance to other communities located in the County of Hunterdon.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: August 19, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING: September 23, 2021