



RESOLUTION 2025-10
ENDORING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO REIMBURSE BODY
ARMOR COSTS FOR ALL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership, enacted in 1998, allocated funds to reimburse up to 50% of the cost of body armor vests for law enforcement and correctional officers, the bill does not provide similar reimbursements for other first responders: EMTs, paramedics and firefighters; and

WHEREAS, since fiscal year 2015, body armor vests have been directly attributable to saving the lives of at least 305 law enforcement and corrections officers (based on Office of Justice Pro- grams data, April 2023.). Forty-three of those body armor vests were purchased, in part, with BVP funds; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of guns in the U.S. and increasing societal unrest has led to a significant uptick in violence against all emergency responders, including fire and EMS personnel, according to sources that include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and research published in the National Library of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders provide critical services to our communities and we strive to provide equipment that allows them to do their jobs properly, efficiently and safely; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Morristown City Council endorses the effort to provide federal funding for body armor for all first responders and those acting in a first responder capacity, and urges Congress to pass legislation providing additional funding for body armor vests and broadening the requirements to include fire fighters, and rescue and EMS personnel, whether serving their community in public and private entities.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Morristown this 3rd day of February 2025.

By:

Mayor, Tim Flaten

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Cassie Eldeen