

## **DISTRICT 4 & 18 – NEW YORK CITY**

**BEDFORD-STUYVESANT VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS**, Kings County (Brooklyn) is reported to have been the victim of a \$1 million identity theft scheme. Two men were arraigned in November on a 41-count indictment relating to the alleged scam and now face 25 years in jail if convicted. The indictment indicates they conspired in a scheme from December 2011 to November 2012, where they used entities that were or appeared to be nonprofit emergency responders to apply for and secure bank financing from the Oklahoma State Bank that was intended for the purpose of purchasing emergency vehicles and equipment for these entities. Real or fictitious entities whose names were used included: Aviation Volunteer Fire Department, New York State Search and Rescue, Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Kings County Volunteer Ambulance Corps, among others. Fraudulent documents such as tax forms as well as invoices from a fictitious company called Boro Auto Sales for emergency vehicles and equipment were submitted and the Oklahoma bank wired more than \$1 million into an account controlled by one of the men charged.

**CENTRAL PARK MEDICAL UNIT** - Recently lost two reportedly specially-designed ambulances in a fire, drastically reducing the services ability to serve people in need of medical attention in Central Park. CMU reports that these ambulances were specially designed to quickly maneuver through Central Park's low bridges and winding paths, the service is seeking donations to replace the ambulances. Any donation made during the month of December was matched by the Central Park Conservancy.

**COLING MEDICAL TRANSPORT**, Kings County (Brooklyn), was suspended for 3 years effective 10/24/14 for violations of a previously issued Stipulation and order. Previously, on 9/2/14 the agency was issued a 3 year suspension with the suspension being stayed, and assessed a civil penalty of \$8,000 for violation of Public Health Law Section 3010(1). This is the third disciplinary against Coling, a commercial provider. In 2008 it was assessed a civil penalty of \$5,000 also for violation of Public Health Law Section 3010(1). The section of the PHL cited involves an ambulance service's area of operation. Coling is based in Brooklyn but is authorized to serve Manhattan south of 59 Street and the Bronx. Unofficial sources indicate Coling has a contract with the Veterans Administration and would pick up patients at VA facilities in Manhattan and the Bronx and transport them to other boroughs including Brooklyn and Queens. Rather than decline transport opportunities offered at locations outside the authorized origination areas the company would accept the transports.

**FDNY EMS** is one of the nation's largest purchasers of ambulances and Internet posts indicate it has signed a new multi-year contract for 300 vehicles. Included are 50 on 4x4 chassis – the first FDNY deployment of this type after the large December 2010 snowstorm and response criticisms. Another 50 will be on medium duty F-450 chassis for HazTac units and 50 for rescue medic units. The new ambulance layout has the large O2 cylinder in a side compartment where the backboards are currently stored with extra compartments on the outside, chevron stripes on the rear and a Blackbox recording unit. In addition, there is a new mobile radio spec for rescue medics ambulances with 1 EMS mobile, 1 fire mobile and 1 800mhz mobile. The 2011 contract with Wheeled Coach for up to 285 ambulances on Dodge B4500 Quad Cab chassis incorporated many unique structural and technical requirements and was changed after the 1st batch of 56 units supposedly due to issues with the Hemi engines and there is a rumor that several Dodges are just sitting around and never went into service. The remaining ambulances from that order are on F-450 and F-550 chassis radio shops will be reprogramming all mobile radios in FDNY engines and ladders citywide and adding the EMS dispatch channels. Company officers are now authorized to use the EMS channels while operating on EMS assignments. "You got an ETA on the bus?" or "Could you put a rush on the bus?" will be directed to the dispatcher but will also be heard by the ambulance crews. These changes are evidently in response to issues raised earlier this year at a fire in Far Rockaway when 2 children died and the ambulance response time was reportedly over 20 minutes. With an average 911 ambulance response time of about 9 minutes and more than 20,000 false alarms in the city mostly for structure fires, EMS units are not normally dispatched to fire reports unless the 1<sup>st</sup> arriving firefighters calls a signal 10-75 for a working fire. EMS supervisors' radios were already were equipped with capability to transmit on fire frequencies.