

## Link to Article

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*November 4, 2023*

### **Office of Senator Nathalia Fernandez Announces New Ambulance for Pelham, Marking a Major Step Forward in Emergency Services**

**Pelham, NY** – Senator Nathalia Fernandez is proud to announce the unveiling of a new ambulance in the Town of Pelham, following a ceremony held at the Pelham Public Library parking lot earlier this year. The \$450,000 state-of-the-art ambulance, which was secured through funding by Senator Fernandez and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, represents a significant investment in improving emergency response services in the town.

However, before the new ambulance can officially begin operations, the town must finalize an agreement with the Eastchester Volunteer Ambulance Corps by January 1, 2025, to provide the necessary crews to staff the vehicle.

“We’ve made significant progress in our discussions with Eastchester EMS, but we have not yet finalized a contract,” said Town Attorney Tom Kleinberger during the event. While the location where the ambulance will be stationed is still being determined, it will be housed within the Town of Pelham to ensure quicker response times during emergencies.

The purchase of the ambulance was the result of efforts led by Pelham Town Councilwoman Maura Curtin, who collaborated with Senator Fernandez and Assemblywoman Paulin to secure discretionary funds from the state to bring the vehicle to Pelham.

“Councilwoman Curtin recognized the need for improved emergency services in Pelham and took the initiative to reach out for support,” said Senator Fernandez. “I was more than happy to work alongside her and Assemblywoman Paulin to secure the necessary funding to ensure that Pelham residents have access to better and faster emergency care.”

Joining Senator Fernandez at the unveiling were Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Pelham Town Councilwoman Kara McLoughlin, Town Supervisor Dan McLaughlin, and Deputy Town Supervisor Rae Szymanski. All officials emphasized the importance of this critical investment for the community.

The need for a new ambulance became increasingly urgent after the Town of Pelham raised concerns over response times with their current provider, Empress Emergency Medical Services. Residents reported delays in receiving care, and the town’s contract with Empress is set to expire at the end of the year. The town board has been actively working on replacing the contract, and negotiations with Eastchester EMS are ongoing.

In the meantime, a temporary county ambulance has been stationed near Pelham to meet the current demand for emergency services, and the town board approved an override of the state tax cap in October to ensure funding for an anticipated contract with Eastchester EMS.

The new ambulance, purchased from Specialty Vehicles/AEV in East Farmingdale, will provide full transport capabilities and enhance emergency response operations in Pelham, especially for critical medical calls.

“This new ambulance represents a major step forward for Pelham,” said Senator Fernandez. “We understand the importance of fast, reliable emergency services, and this investment will directly enhance the safety and well-being of the people in our community.”

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin added, “I’m thrilled to have been able to partner with Senator Fernandez to provide this funding for Pelham. This new ambulance will improve response times and ensure that residents receive the best possible emergency care.”

As negotiations continue, Pelham residents can look forward to better-equipped emergency medical services, with the new ambulance at the center of that transformation.

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