



For Immediate Release

February 25, 2019

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Unions Launch Campaign Demanding Mayor de Blasio Be on the Right Side of History and Bring Fairness and Equality to EMS

(New York, N.Y.)— Two New York City unions representing more than 4,700 Emergency Medical Service professionals have launched a campaign demanding that Mayor Bill de Blasio stop disparaging EMS workers and commit to rectifying the City’s long-standing practice of discriminatory pay practices towards these uniformed service members.

The two unions—Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics & Fire Inspectors, FDNY, Local 2507, which represents 4,200 Uniformed Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Fire Inspectors, and Uniformed EMS Officers, Local 3621, FDNY, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, which represents more than 500 Uniformed EMS Officers, including Captains and Lieutenants—are spearheading the campaign. The campaign features radio and digital spots and advertisements in print outlets such as *The New York Times* and *The Chief*, and a website, www.emsworkisdifferent.com.

“Despite Mayor de Blasio’s demeaning words towards the work EMS does each and every day, our workers continue to show up and serve. We need Mayor de Blasio to commit to meaningfully address the systemic inequities that pervade the City’s Fire Department, not perpetuate stereotypes,” said **Oren Barzilay, President of Local 2507**.

“Our members risk their lives to serve our city day in and day out, encountering many of the same life-threatening risks experienced by other uniformed service members. They deserve to be treated with the same level of respect,” said **Vincent Variale, President of Local 3621**. “We urge the Mayor to use this as a teachable moment to help change the mentality that has resulted in unfair pay practices for EMS workers.”

In the print ads, the unions write, “Mr. Mayor, how do you explain the hypocrisy of promoting yourself as a beacon for equality while using such coded language to justify pay inequity? It does not go unnoticed that EMS is the most diverse group, comprising the greatest percentage of women