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**SENATOR
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March 31, 2020

Daniel A. Nigro
FDNY Commissioner
9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Commissioner Nigro:

First of all, we'd like to thank you for all that you and the FDNY are doing during the COVID-19 crisis. The Department has taken on an incredible challenge, with an unprecedented amount of calls, the bulk of which fall upon the Emergency Medical Service. With over 200 EMS workers already sick from the virus, we must think creatively about ways to assist them as they rise to this extraordinary moment.

We're writing to bring to your attention the need for emergency housing for EMS employees and urge you to work with New York City Emergency Management (NYC OEM) to utilize the "Share Your Space" program for these essential workers. This program, which is already being employed for health care workers in hospitals, should be utilized for EMS as they are also working long, exhausting hours and are at great risk of exposure and spreading the virus.

The men and women of EMS, risking their lives every day, deserve the peace of mind afforded to other health care workers. They have always been on the front lines of our health care and emergency response system, now more than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They go home afraid they'll pass the virus onto their loved ones, or more often than not, to stem the tide of infection, resort to sleeping in their cars before risking spread of infection to family members.

Please reach out if you have any questions or if you'd like to discuss this further. Once again, thank you for your leadership during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Gounardes
Member of Senate

