

Revised Resolution No. 14

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Policy

Re: PulsePoint Verified Responder and Similar Off Duty Response Programs

1 WHEREAS, PulsePoint Verified Responder is a
2 mobile app designed to alert nearby off-duty
3 professional responders to extremely time-sensitive
4 medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest,
5 obstructed airway, drowning, and overdose; and

6 WHEREAS, the Verified Responder Program
7 differs from the citizen version of the app known as
8 PulsePoint Respond in that the Verified Responder
9 app alerts responders to events at residential
10 addresses in addition to public locations and
11 potentially to a broader array of incident types; and

12 WHEREAS, PulsePoint is only available where
13 implemented by the local public safety agency which
14 includes an integration with the associated Public
15 Safety Answering Point (PSAP); and

16 WHEREAS, it is well-established that the rapid
17 response of trained individuals to out-of-hospital
18 cardiac arrest is critical to improving effective
19 resuscitation and increasing the likelihood of survival
20 and positive neurologic outcomes; and

21 WHEREAS, statistically significant
22 improvements to cardiac arrest survival rates occur
23 when CPR is performed prior to the arrival of
24 traditional first responders; and

25 WHEREAS, early CPR also makes defibrillation
26 more effective by increasing the proportion of
27 individuals who are found with a shockable rhythm;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, other time-sensitive medical
30 conditions such as airway obstruction and inadequate
31 breathing benefit in a similar fashion from early
32 intervention; and

33 WHEREAS, the IAFF recognizes the important
34 role that professional fire fighters and emergency
35 medical services personnel have in their community,
36 both on duty and off; therefore be it

37 RESOLVED, That in departments that choose to
38 implement PulsePoint Verified Responder, or similar
39 off duty response programs, policy should be
40 established to ensure that participation is not
41 mandatory; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That personnel should be authorized,
43 but not required, to participate as a Verified
44 Responder to provide medical care when off-duty;
45 and be it further

46 RESOLVED, That while responding to a
47 PulsePoint Verified Responder alert, personnel
48 shall be covered by workers' compensation, other
49 insurance protections, including all indemnity and
50 defenses to which on-duty personnel are entitled, and
51 any and all line of duty death benefits; and be it
52 further

53 RESOLVED, That personnel providing emergency
54 care while off-duty shall be entitled to compensation
55 as defined in the relevant collective bargaining
56 agreement, including overtime, if applicable; and
57 be it further

58 RESOLVED, That personnel should provide
59 emergency care only in accordance with employment
60 and medical protocols within the terms of their scope
61 of practice; and be it further

62 RESOLVED, That personnel responding to a
63 PulsePoint Verified Responder alert should transfer
64 emergency care responsibility to the responding
65 EMS/fire personnel/agency as soon as appropriate;
66 and be it further

67 RESOLVED, That continued assistance may be
68 performed in cooperation with the responding
69 agency, if requested; and be it further

70 RESOLVED, That personnel should notify their
71 agency as soon as practicable after rendering off-duty
72 assistance and document, at a minimum, the
73 circumstances, care provided, and relevant times; and
74 be it further

75 RESOLVED, That protected health information
76 should be managed pursuant to relevant privacy and
77 security provisions for safeguarding medical data;
78 and be it further

79 RESOLVED, That personnel participating in the
80 PulsePoint Verified Responder program should be
81 issued personal protective equipment for infection
82 control and when possible provided additional
83 medical equipment such as an AED and bag valve
84 mask (BVM).

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Revised

CONVENTION ACTION: Rejected