

October 30, 2023



Dear AFSCME Local 1202 Member:

On Tuesday, November 7th, an important election will be held in our city.

As you may know, for many years now, our union has refrained from getting involved in municipal elections. This time is different. After working closely with Mayor Paul Coogan for the past few years, I feel compelled to write you to respectfully request that you join me in voting to **RE-ELECT MAYOR COOGAN**.

In his first two terms as mayor, Paul has proven to be a fair-minded leader with a deep respect and appreciation for the difficult work we do as first-responders. Perhaps most importantly, he has listened carefully to our concerns and has worked with us to achieve some important longstanding goals of our Local and our department. The following are a few key accomplishments we have achieved by working with Mayor Coogan and his team:

EXPANSION OF EMS SERVICES- Mayor Coogan worked closely with us to expand our services and role in the community. Through the creation of the new Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) division, we now play an important and expanded role in our community, providing citizens with services such as wellness and home safety checks, and in-home vaccinations. Relatively new to most EMS and fire departments in the country, MIH services provide vital care to individuals who for a variety of reasons, are often unable to access these services. Through our collaborative efforts with the mayor, we are now at the forefront of this new important initiative and making a real difference in our city. Given the many tragic incidents we respond to in our difficult line of work, I personally find it very rewarding to be involved in proactive and preventative care.

OUR OWN EMS DEPARTMENT- As you know, for many years we as EMS professionals have been part of the city's fire department. That changed under Mayor Coogan's Administration and through his leadership, we are now a stand-alone city department. Operating as our own department within the city has provided us new opportunities for growth and expansion as we are able to provide more services in our city.

A FAIR AND EQUITABLE EMS CONTRACT- In addition to the above, Mayor Coogan has been very fair to us at the negotiating table. Our current contract includes meaningful and competitive wage increases and benefits, helping to address longstanding retention issues within our department. It also includes an increase in personal time and improved language regarding forced shifts.

It is with these and many other things in mind, that I ask you to consider joining me in voting for Mayor Coogan on Tuesday, November 7th. Should you choose to join me in supporting Mayor Coogan, I also ask that you consider asking your friends and family members to support him as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Silva, President
AFSCME Local 1202

