

Knowing life matters.

To the citizens of Alexandria:

I, like you, believe that access to healthcare is a basic human right. "Knowing life matters" is not just a tag line for me. I set out 50 years ago to ensure that the people of Louisiana had access to exceptional emergency ambulance services and am honored to say that every day since its inception in 1971, Acadian Ambulance Service has been there 24/7/365 to answer every call and respond to every disaster, and has been a community partner to the areas and people we serve.

It is important to me to take this opportunity to clear up some misconceptions that have arisen regarding the perceived benefits of adding a second ambulance provider to serve the City of Alexandria.

We are not opposed to competition for providing 911 emergency medical services. But, the time for that competition is in a formal RFP and competitive bidding process to select a sole provider. This process allows local authorities to set specific guidelines and requirements for any company operating emergency EMS services. It also allows for strict oversight by the governing authority and direct accountability by the EMS provider.

Acadian Ambulance has been a proud member of the Alexandria community since 1995. We have many employee-owners, and their families, who call Alexandria home. While other providers are being purchased by huge conglomerates, we are proud to be Louisiana's only employee-owned, Louisiana-based and fully accredited ambulance service. Our medics are your neighbors.

The subject of public safety and emergency medical services is a very serious one. It is important that you, the citizens of Alexandria, and your elected officials, have the accurate and reliable information necessary to make an informed decision on such an important topic.

Richard E. Zuschlag

Founder, Chairman & CEO Acadian Ambulance Service

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