



PRESS RELEASE

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CETRONIA AMBULANCE CORPS DEDICATES 5 NEW KONA PATROL BIKES TO PROVIDE SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENT EMS SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, ALLENTOWN, PA – Grateful community supporter Jay Gilbert joined Cetronia Ambulance Corps CEO Larry Wiersch and the members of the Cetronia Ambulance Corps Bike Team in dedicating five new Kona Safari Land Patrol bicycles to be used during Special Operations and to provide Special Event Stand-by EMS services for the community during large gathering events.

Getting quick and efficient access to the sick and injured in an emergency at highly attended special events can often be challenging. Precious minutes can be lost by ambulances being detained in heavy event traffic while maneuvering a large emergency vehicle past physical obstructions or attempting to get through a crowd of bystanders and pedestrians. The Cetronia Ambulance Corps Bike Team provides quick medical response and care where traditional ambulance services can sometimes be delayed due to these circumstances and barriers. Cetronia's trained and skilled Bike Team can easily maneuver through these crowds and obstacles delivering excellent patient care and rapid response until ground transport can arrive.

Members of the Bike Team are equipped with AED's, cardiac monitor, oxygen, medications to handle cardiac arrests and other cardiac emergencies, asthma attacks, allergic reactions and other common medical emergencies that can occur at any public events. Having proper equipment and common emergency medications on bicycles allows for the immediate treatment at the scene of the accident or injury until ground transport arrives. Cetronia's Bike Team is comprised of highly skilled paramedics and emergency medical technicians that receive specialized training in special operations and bicycle operations. All members are certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) which requires you to complete a 40-hour training course learning how to ride a bike safely over obstacles, through large crowd and tight quarters with 50 pounds of equipment.

Cetronia's original bikes were purchased in 1998. John Shambo, EMT-P and Bike Team Leader for Cetronia, put together a proposal for new equipment in the spring of 2015. The five bikes are fully

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equipped with all the necessary safety and response equipment and have a value of more than \$1,500 each. Shambo graciously donated funds to purchase one of the bikes and secured additional funding for two more bikes from the Gilbert Family. The remaining two bikes were purchased by the Corps. At the request of the Gilbert Family, two of the bikes have been dedicated to the loving memory of Ray C. Gilbert and Sherry A. Hacker. Sherry A. Hacker was the mother and grandmother to three of Cetronia Ambulance Corps associates.

From large scale sporting events to local community events, Cetronia Ambulance Corps remains ready to meet your Special Operations and Special Event EMS needs. Each year, Cetronia Ambulance Corps provides stand-by EMS services to over 250 community events, sporting events, and stand-bys. The Bike Team has a presence at many of these events some of which include the VIA Half Marathon, Central Catholic's Cross Country Team, and many of the walks and runs that are held at the Ironton Rail Trail, Lehigh Parkway, Trexler Nature Preserve and Rodale Park.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps, founded in 1955, is a non-profit, 501(c)3 community-based emergency medical services provider prominently located in the Lehigh Valley. Cetronia Ambulance Corps is one of the largest providers of ambulance and medical transportation services in Eastern Pennsylvania; employing 140 full and part time career associates, and 25 active volunteers. Cetronia's maintains a fleet of 41 vehicles consisting of 19 ambulances, 18 para-transit vehicles, a quick response supervisor's vehicle, four medi-cars and a special operations unit. Cetronia provides basic and advanced life support ambulance, para-transit, wheelchair, stretcher van, educational, medical alarm, dispatch and medical billing services to meet the communities' emergency medical service, medical transportation and population health needs in collaboration with other local healthcare agencies.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps believes in regional partnerships with others to improve and more efficiently serve the emergency and non-emergency needs of our community. With Cetronia's recent move into their new Joint Operations and Lehigh County Medical Forensics Center located at 4300 Broadway in Allentown, South Whitehall Township, Cetronia has expanded its capabilities to further meet the needs of the growing Lehigh Valley Community. Our people are representative of the fabric of our community and as the regional leader in High Performance EMS; Cetronia Ambulance Corps will exceed 50,000 requests for service this year, covering an emergency service area that spans across 150 square miles and a non-emergency coverage area that encompasses seven counties. Cetronia Ambulance Corps provides Health on Wheels™ and is dedicated to saving lives and partnering with community every day.

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