

October 6, 2009

Thompsonville Fire Commissioners
Thompsonville Fire District II
11 Pearl Street
Enfield, CT 06082


Dear Chairman Alaimo and District Commissioners,

We write to you today with deep concern for the health and safety of our constituents in the Thompsonville Fire District. We are aware that you, the Commissioners for the Thompsonville Fire District, voted last Thursday to potentially eliminate up to five (5) firefighter positions. We ask that you reconsider this decision. A fire department is expected to protect the life and property of the community it serves. If yet another reduction in firefighters at the Thompsonville Fire Station were to occur, this will without a doubt negatively impact the well-being of the community.

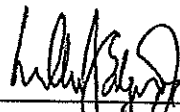
We feel that if this layoff were to occur, not only will 5 fire fighters with families lose their jobs, but it will also have an adverse impact on the morale of the remaining staff. Furthermore, we fear that any shift staffing level reductions or fire fighter layoff within the Thompsonville Fire Department will negatively impact the level of fire protection to both Thompsonville and the Town as a whole.

While we fully understand your budget shortfalls, we believe that laying off firefighters is not the solution. We also will be insisting that the Union continue to work with you to rectify the budgetary problems that the Department has run into. The Town Council successfully negotiated with the Unions, during the past budget deliberations, to preserve jobs and make up for funds needed; thus proving that there is a solution that does not involve layoffs.

Sincerely,



David W. Kiner
Town Councilman, At-Large



William J. Edgar, Jr.,
Town Councilman, District II



Office of the Fire Commissioners
Thompsonville Fire District 2
Enfield, Connecticut

October 6, 2009

Dear Mr. Kiner,

Thank you for your concern for the Thompsonville Fire Department issues. However, you seem to have been given some misinformation, or at the least, a lack of all the facts.

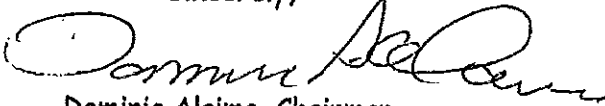
No -one was asked to take a cut in pay
No-one was asked to give up any holiday pay benefits
No-one was asked to pay more towards their medical and dental benefits
There were no "give-backs" or reductions requested.
There was no request to cut back on the four man rotation crews, even though many fire departments in the state are operating with three-man crews.

What was requested was some relief for the excessive overtime that has burdened this department for the past few years.

The Union firefighters were asked to allow the department not to call in a replacement should one person call in sick, or time out for any reason. I do not believe this will put the health and safety of our constituents in danger. Enfield is fortunate to have an outstanding mutual aid situation between all of its fire departments, and any structure fires anywhere in town are immediately serviced by all 5 departments. Enfield operates under a first alarm assignment that benefits all residents of Enfield including Thompsonville
This will not change.

The decision lies in the firefighters hands. I hope they will choose to eliminate excessive overtime rather than eliminate the jobs of some of their fellow firefighters.

Sincerely,


Dominic Alaimo, Chairman



Office of the Fire Commissioners
Thompsonville Fire District 2
Enfield, Connecticut

I speak for the entire commission when I say that :

The members of the Thompsonville Fire Commission were disappointed to see Councilmen Edgar and Kiner interfering in our labor-relations issue. It would be nice if their concern for safety and lives was a genuine year-round sentiment-- not one paraded out during election season to pander to unions.

To Councilmen Edgar and Kiner, we say "Welcome to Thompsonville. Congratulations on discovering the existence of our commission and fire department. Next time, please have the courtesy to obtain the facts before interfering in our business."

It should be obvious that the status quo no longer is good enough. It has caused a bumper crop of tax increases that cannot continue. We have to be more creative in how we staff Thompsonville Fire Department. We must balance safety with the fiscal reality facing the department. Ultimately, this reality is firmly rooted in the serious economic challenges facing Thompsonville as a neighborhood.

By interfering in this matter, Councilmen Kiner and Edgar have made clear that they support the old way of doing things and want the tax increases to continue. If they so strongly want to preserve the status quo, we encourage them to move to Thompsonville and run for fire commission on a tax increase platform.

The taxpayers of Thompsonville have made very clear to this Commission that they do not want their taxes to go up one iota. As a commission, we are committed to making this desire a reality. Unfortunately, this necessitated mid-year concessions that the union was strongly opposed to. Thankfully, in the face of anticipated layoffs, the firefighters' union decided that preserving jobs was more important than hanging on to frivolous overtime. In the negotiated agreement, the union made the overtime concession that we had requested from the beginning. This concession now puts our contract in line with the contracts of the other four fire departments in town. We want to express our special thanks to the members of IAFF Local 3059 for ratifying the agreement and putting the taxpayers first.

The taxpayers of Thompsonville have our assurance that as long as we sit on this commission, we will make every effort humanly possible to avoid tax increases and balance the budget via cost reductions. The people have made clear that they want tax relief, not tax hikes. Their wishes deserve to be respected. Thank you.

STIPULATED AGREEMENT

BY AND BETWEEN

THOMPSONVILLE FIRE DISTRICT #2

AND

THOMPSONVILLE FIRE FIGHTERS, IAFF 3059

The Thompsonville Fire District #2 (the "District") and the Thompsonville Fire Fighters Union, IAFF 3059 (the "Union") (Collectively the "parties") hereby agree to the following:

(1) The Union agrees to suspend Article 17 of the collective bargaining agreement from execution until a successor collective bargaining agreement is reached for the contract currently expiring on 6/30/2010, limited to:

(a) Monday through Friday, day shift, excluding Holidays, the minimum staffing shall be three (3) consisting of one (1) fire officer or acting officer and two (2) fire fighters.

(b) Call-back of off-duty personnel shall continue as is currently the practice.

(2) The District agrees to a "no lay-off" clause for bargaining unit members during the term of the instant agreement.

(3) The parties agree that the instant agreement is without prejudice or precedent to either parties positive view as in the future and is being made to address the District's projected financial short-fall in the current fiscal year (71/09-6/30/10).

Furthermore, the parties agree that the instant agreement shall not be considered as used in

any other forum, including, but not limited to contract negotiations or interest arbitration,
but shall only be used to enforce the agreement itself.

In full and final resolution, on this 5th day of October, 2009.

/s Dominic Alaimo
For the District

/s Thomas Brocuglio
For the Union

/s Frank Alaimo
Witness

/s Peter Carozza, Jr.
Witness

/s Paul Nabors
Witness

/s Matthew Flor
Witness