



LACEY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

Making A Difference

COMMISSIONERS

John L. Christiansen
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CHIEF

James M. Broman

January 27, 2009

The Honorable Graeme Sackrison
Mayor
City of Lacey
PO Box 3400
Lacey, WA 98509

Re: City of Lacey Service Agreement

Dear Mayor Sackrison:

Thank you for the prompt response to the District's letter to the City of January 22, 2009. The District is encouraged that the City accepts the District's suggestion that mediation may better serve the interests of the parties and the public in the greater-Lacey community.

The District cannot dictate to the City the parameters or positions the City may choose for mediation. The District approaches mediation with an intent toward problem solving and without preconditions or fixed parameters. The District believes that such an approach will foster resolution. The District will maintain its current service levels during mediation.

Fire District # 3 Commissioners, Fire Chief, and our Firefighter/EMTs are all dedicated to protect the health and property of our entire community. While the City and Fire District try to resolve the funding, operations, and philosophical differences, the District continues to undertake its tasks with the highest degree of professionalism, training and experience available. Please be assured that the District will not compromise the health and safety of our citizens and firefighters.

We continue to provide the citizens of Fire District # 3 and the City of Lacey, the best emergency services possible within operational and fiscal constraints.

Lacey Fire District provides emergency medical services and fire protection for jurisdictions involving a community of 84,040 people within a 70-square-mile area of Northeast Thurston County including, by contract, the City of Lacey. The Board of Commissioners has directed our Fire Chief to provide, equally, the services to the 46,000 people within the Fire District and the 38,040 within the City.

In 2008, operating out of five stations, the Fire District responded to 9,487 calls for service. We have provided these responses from five different stations located throughout the community. These are:

Station	Calls	% of Total	Location
Station 31	4,553	47.8%	Franz @ Pacific
Station 32	389	4.1%	Yelm Highway
Station 33	1,943	20.4%	Mullen Road
Station 34	2,116	22.3%	Steilacoom Road
Station 35	496	5.2%	Willamette Drive

You are demanding that Fire District # 3 divert almost twenty percent (20%) of our available resources to serve approximately five percent (5%) of the community's population. We believe that not applying the services to serve all of the community, as you are demanding is wrong. That approach may significantly endanger the lives and property of the other 95% of our community. Additionally, your demand could raise the fire insurance rates your citizens pay because of the increased risk of fire loss.

We are under the impression that the Lacey City Council cares about providing quality emergency services, equally, to their citizens. Our joint committee (representing both City and District) was starting to focus on the future, to identify service levels, and method of delivery, when the City unilaterally broke off the discussions and threatened the District with litigation. The District remains committed to the joint committee process as well as to now pursuing mediation of pending issues.

The Fire District # 3 Commissioners are committed to provide to the citizens of Fire District # 3 and the citizens of the City of Lacey, professional, capable, emergency responders to protect the property and health to the best of our ability and financial resources. Service, safety, and protection coupled with sound financial management are all priorities in Fire District # 3.

Please contact me to discuss the process for mediator selection.

Respectfully,



K. Frank Kirkbride, Chair
Board of Fire Commissioners