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Public Safety Will Be Maintained Amidst Petersburg City Budget Cuts

(Petersburg, Virginia) – September 1, 2016 - The City appreciates the Association's advocacy to protect the public safety of its residents and business owners in the City of Petersburg. Public Safety is of the utmost importance to the City. The City is faced with cutting approximately 12 million dollars from its adopted budget. Each and every cut is very difficult but I am confident that this City will remain resilient and have continued public safety.

Public Safety

Prior to the recommendations each department including the Petersburg Fire Department met with the City's consultants, to which the opportunity was given to discuss the Departments operations and to provide data. The consultants then compared the Petersburg Fire Department to like jurisdictions. Out of nine like cities, Petersburg had the second highest number of FTEs per capita, but a below average number of FTEs per fire and a slightly higher than average number of FTEs per incident. In 2014 the Petersburg Fire Department responded to 219 fires, which represents approximately 4.2% of total incidences. Additionally, Fire Station 5 accounted for only 8.1% of total calls. Therefore a data driven approach was behind the recommendations to reduce staffing and close one fire station.

Fire Department Vendors

While the City fights its way through this fiscal crisis and adds budgetary controls to restrict grant dollars -- payments to vendors are discussed each day and payments are released as funds are available. The Fire Department is no different, the vendor which provided the Department with its turnout gear was agreeable to payments being made later this month.

Fire Hydrant Maintenance

The City has implemented a full inspection program for fire hydrant, throughout the City. This plan has yielded over 200 inspections and is being implemented by both the Fire Department and Public Works.

Vehicle Maintenance

All City Vehicles in need of maintenance go through our a Fleet Maintenance Division. All repairs are performed by licensed vendors throughout the City. Currently there is one Fire Apparatus being repaired.

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