



EAST FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SOMERSET COUNTY
121 PINEGROVE AVENUE, SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY 08873
N.J. TAX EXEMPT #3003967

To our respected and loved residents of Franklin Twp. Fire District #3,

Over the course of the past couple of months, there have been issues within your Fire District where your taxpayer dollars are dedicated to year after year. The specific issues lie within a contract dispute, to include but not limited to unrealistic policies that the Franklin Twp. Fire District #3 Fire Commissioners demand the East Franklin Fire Department adhere to. Here is a bulleted list of the following policies they want us to agree to for the 2024 fire agreement, which to this point **we have refused**:

- Fire Chiefs who reside out of Franklin Twp. Fire District #3 **shall leave their assigned Chief's vehicle at the firehouse**, and in the event of a dispatched fire call must come to the station and pick up their respective Chief's vehicle, then respond to the location of the emergency.
 - This will unnecessarily delay us in responding to **YOUR EMERGENCY**
- Fire Chiefs and anyone in a designated Incident Commander position, must be in full firefighting gear **including SCBA and on air**, while within a hot zone. This includes the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), while in a standby capacity within a hot zone must be in full firefighting gear **including SCBA and on air (even if not engaged in firefighter rescue)**.
 - This will put an undue strain and negative stressors on **YOUR FIREFIGHTERS**
- All fire apparatus and Chief's vehicles will have front facing cameras, rear facing cameras and cameras on the interior to face the driver's seat and passenger's seat and will be audio/video recording 24/7/365. These cameras **can be accessed at anytime without need for cause by any fire commissioner from a phone or computer 24/7/365** (We currently have cameras that record audio and are front facing in the apparatus and have cameras in the Chief's vehicles that record audio and video only when the emergency lights are activated during a response to a fire call).
 - This is an invasion on the right to privacy of **YOUR FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**
 - It will hinder the Fire Chief **from conducting confidential business**, i.e., speaking with the Fire District Attorney or a member of the fire company regarding **personal issues**, which can be both administrative and fire related for the betterment of the Fire Department



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- A firefighter who has consumed alcohol shall wait **4-hours from the time of the last drink of alcohol in order to ride a fire apparatus (this has been reduced from the previous 8-hour time frame and does not conform with national fire standards).**
 - o The previous standard has been lowered for Firefighters to operate **YOUR FIRE APPARATUS**
- A Fire Chief will not have **any ability to refute any policy until after its implementation.**
 - o Title 40A: **does not allow Fire Commissioners to interfere with day-to-day operations of a Fire Department and Fire Chief's ultimately are in charge of the Fire Department's operations.**
- A Firefighter's personal belongings to include but not limited to cellular phone, glasses, watches etc.... **will not be covered if they are damaged on a fire scene, whether within Franklin Twp. Fire District #3 or outside jurisdictions.**
 - o This will cause unnecessary financial strains on **YOUR FIREFIGHTERS,** for items that if damaged are commonly covered by insurance.

We have attempted on numerous occasions to meet with the Fire Commissioners to negotiate the terms of the agreement, which they have ignored those attempts to meet. The Fire Commissioners will be **TAKING AWAY YOUR FIRE APPARATUS AND GEAR FOR YOUR EAST FRANKLIN FIREFIGHTERS ON JUNE 30TH, 2024** if the contract is not signed and our firehouse will not be in-service to respond to **YOUR EMERGENCIES.**

- Additionally in February of 2024, you voted on the Fire Department Capital Budget of 2024 to approve \$500,000 for a new piece of fire apparatus for the East Franklin Fire Department. At the March 2024 Fire Commissioners meeting, **they overturned your wishes and declined to authorize the purchase of a new fire apparatus to replace a 20-year-old fire engine.**
 - o **What would have cost in February 2024 under \$1,000,000.00 will now cost taxpayers \$1,100,000.00 (an additional 10%) if purchased by July 2024. If purchased after July 2024, it will cost \$1,300,000.00 (an additional 30% above the original cost), ALL DUE TO THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE TAXPAYER WISHES.**



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We are asking for your support in our efforts to remain in-service to respond to any and all emergencies within Franklin Twp. Fire District #3, **WHERE YOU LIVE!!! PLEASE COME OUT AND ATTEND WHAT COULD BE OUR LAST FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING:**

Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, at 7pm
Franklin Twp. Fire District #3
138 Shevchenko Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873

If you have any questions on how you can further support us, you can contact Chief Dan Krushinski at his cell (732)261-6284 or by email Chief27A@aol.com, stop by the firehouse or call our firehouse (732)247-0820.

WE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED YOU WITH A 100% VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, RESPONDING TO ANY AND ALL EMERGENCIES TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES PROTECTED SINCE 1929 AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE TO DO SO!

**WITH ALL OF OUR HEARTS,
YOUR FIREFIGHTERS OF THE EAST FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT**