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DATE: 8/30/17

TO: Don Konkle

FROM: Jim Carstater

SUBJECT: LOSAP Hearing

My schedule will not allow me to attend, but I would offer a few comments regarding the subject.

My department, Fairview Fire & Rescue in Erie County, does not currently offer a LOSAP program. As President, I checked into it with out insurance provider several years ago, and our relief association revenue was not adequate to cover the cost without a sizable subsidy from the general operating fund of the Fire Department, which we could not afford at the time.

We have supported at the Erie County Firefighters Association, the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania and others, the proposal to increase the foreign fire insurance funding either through a increase in the tax, a reallocation of the revenue distribution or a surcharge added to insurance bills. None of those suggestions have been achieved despite having been recommended for years.

However, the environment has changed, in large part due to the passage of Act 37 regulating EMS services. More and more volunteer based EMS services have either folded, merged into or formed paid services, or resorted to having to hire personnel to meet the response mandates contained in the act.

My department had to double the number of paid EMS personnel this year over last year in order to meet the staffing and response requirements of Act 37. Along with that came new dispatch protocols, implemented at the county level, which means often times a EMS response arriving at a residential address is a vehicle other than one painted with Fairview Fire & Rescue on the side. Despite owning one seventh of the West County Paramedic Association, when a WCPA vehicle arrives at a response destination, residents often wrongly conclude the department dropped the call, and it is reflecting in our fund drive receipts. As of August 9th, our department fund drive was running \$36,935.92 behind last year, or off by roughly 29%. Along with reduced or eliminated donations came comments like "when you start answering calls, we'll consider donating" and "why is not the next closest ambulance being sent" with no understanding of what

next closest 'staffed' ambulance means under the act. (Copy of the August fund drive report is attached.) Act 37 is the total destruction of volunteer based EMS in Pennsylvania in my opinion, and the impact that will have on other volunteer based services is yet to be fully felt.

As a result, in our department general fund revenue that might have once been considered for subsidizing a relief LOAP program are now being consumed supporting increased staffing and no longer available at the same time as public support is decreasing, due to perceptions that the public has, and continues to develop regarding the ability to meet ever increasing mandates from the state.

Given those ever increasing mandates, most unfunded, being placed upon providers, I believe the demand for a LOSAP program will be significantly reduced due to fewer agencies remaining 'volunteer' being replaced by paid or part paid providers, or having the financial resources available to implement a program of adequate size and scope as to actually influence participation.

I fear regulation and mandates have put volunteer emergency services providers on life support.

FAIRVIEW FIRE & RESCUE

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 BUSINESS PHONE 814/474-5091 • WWW.FVFD52.ORG

FIRE PHONE 911

2:47 PM

08/09/17

Cash Basis

Fairview Fire and Rescue YTD Fund Drive January 1 through August 9, 2017

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Split	Paid Amount
Jan 1 - Aug 9, 17						
01/05/2017		January Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807804	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	1,335.00
01/25/2017		January Receipts	Joint Fund Drive - R# 8...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	760.00
02/08/2017		February's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807813	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	250.00
02/20/2017		February's Receipts	Fund Drive - R#807818...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	1,090.00
03/08/2017		March's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807837	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	300.00
03/15/2017		March's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 80785...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	260.00
03/17/2017	eft	paypal	Fund Drive Transfer	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	195.00
03/27/2017		March's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807851	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	685.00
03/30/2017		March's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807855	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	295.00
04/06/2017		April Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807859	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	250.00
04/19/2017		April Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807863	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	15,560.18
05/01/2017		May Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807871	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	7,875.00
05/01/2017		May Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807869	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	16,155.00
05/03/2017		May Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807873	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	5,000.00
05/05/2017		May Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807875	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	2,280.00
05/05/2017	eft	paypal	Fund Drive Deposit fro...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	5,625.00
05/11/2017	eft		Deposit fund drive	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	4,697.00
05/16/2017		May Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807882	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	4,545.00
05/24/2017		May Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807883	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	3,862.00
05/25/2017	eft	paypal	Paypal transfer for Fun...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	850.00
06/12/2017		June's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807890	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	4,398.50
06/13/2017		June's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807891	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	1,665.00
06/28/2017	35547	June's Receipts	Fund Drive - Maxpro- R...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	500.00
06/28/2017		June's Receipts	Fund Drive - R#807894...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	4,655.00
07/10/2017		July's Receipts	R# 807901 - Fund Drive	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	3,976.00
07/11/2017	eft	paypal	Paypal Error	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	-930.00
07/12/2017		July's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807902	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	760.00
07/31/2017		July's Receipts	Fund Drive - R# 807910	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	4,095.00
08/07/2017	eft	paypal	Paypal Error and c orre...	416 (Joint F...	Northwest Re...	1,860.00
Jan 1 - Aug 9, 17						92,848.68

.....+P
 2016 129,784.60+
 2017 92,848.68-
 000
 diff 36,935.92*

Signature *K. Lewis*
Fin Sec