

March 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fredericktown Community Fire District has been a long time integral part of the community and surrounding area. With roots pre-dating the current FCFD that go back to the year 1854 where the first references to fire department were mentioned. Fire departments such as ours are cornerstones to communities across the nation.

Since we first put our levies on the ballot as the FCFD we have not increased the financial request and asked for funding from our citizens. Over those years we have made drastic positive changes to the services that we provide, the quality and length of training that we attain, the quality of the equipment that we utilize, the safety in which we do our jobs, and most importantly strive to serve our community better. Furthermore, in order to provide better services we have sought out and won some of the most competitive grants to provide even better equipment at little to no cost. From our cadets, line firefighters, officers, chiefs, to our executive board, we operate with the best interests of our community in mind and been good stewards.

Beyond the operational aspects of the fire department, your members volunteer countless hours where the only payment comes in the form of smiles and knowing that we are doing the right thing. Firefighter toy drives, Easter egg hunts, food drives, fan drives, donating and helping other civic organizations in the community, and so much more that goes unseen.

As good stewards and members of this community, we feel it in our best interest that the FCFD not pursue a merger with other entities or otherwise operationally and financially change or merge interests in any form. That's correct, the FCFD provides Fire & Rescue services, but does not provide any type of emergency medical services or transport to the hospital. We are indeed a separate agency, much like many others throughout the State of Ohio and around the United States. Other counties such as Morrow, Licking, Hancock, Wood, Seneca, Sandusky, Lucas, Coshocton, Delaware, and many others around the state operate separate Fire and EMS services very successfully and have done so for years.

We have seen the negative effects and long lasting issues that merging of departments and drastic changes within staffing can do to other public safety entities and the areas that they serve. Within our own county, other agencies have seen this downfall, lost quality personnel, and their citizens been encumbered by high tax levies to support hiring of personnel, the construction of new stations, and plagued by finding personnel that will respond when the call goes out.

Our community is blessed with a diverse force on the FCFD with varying backgrounds. Farmers, construction workers, maintenance personnel, administrators, technicians, retail workers, business owners, law enforcement,

truck drivers; and even full-time firefighters from other departments call the FCFD home. Regardless of our backgrounds however, we all attain the same or similar level to career level firefighters in larger areas, and then maintain it through continuing education.

We live here, we work here, we are the FCFD and we are dedicated to providing quality services to our community. We thank you for your long time support and trust that you have built with us.

Respectfully,

The Membership of the Fredericktown Community Fire District

Scott H. Hart	Raymond D. Carter
Frank Barts	T. Schwartz
Jimmy L. Moss	Dan May
	J.P. Whel
Bill C. Dwyer BFO	Norm Smith
Jack Clark	Don Stacks
	Lin Moring
	Halcyon Post
He L.S.	Gret Regan
Travis Jay	Jim Bots
Bob Brown	Tim O
	Carmen Kyle
	Russell Wilser