



New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, Inc.

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REV. JOHN TALLMAN
40 Collins Place
Albany, NY 12208

Hon. Lovely Warren
City Hall
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614

July 19, 2019

Dear Mayor Warren,

I write today after learning of a series of disturbing actions that threaten the people of Rochester and the women and men of the Rochester Fire Department.

More specifically, your short-sighted decision to close fire stations and shift firefighters away from their assigned neighborhood compromises public safety for every resident, business and visitor to the City.

Over the last three years, Rochester's Firefighters respond to approximately 45,000 calls – and during that time its call volume increased from 44,451 calls to 46,349.

That equates to an emergency call every 6 minutes that includes incidents such as fires, heart attacks, gunshot wounds, automobile accidents, hazardous waste spills and terrorist threats.

In the next few days, the thermometer reading will spike – and so too will 911 calls for assistance from those in distress along the Genesee River, or the City's pools and beaches. And, undoubtedly vulnerable populations such as seniors and those afflicted with chronic conditions will require immediate attention and life-saving treatment.

Mayor Warren, your actions and the threat posed to the community are far more costly than any savings you may have calculated. And, the lasting impact of a tragedy is immeasurable.

Please know that I express these sentiments on behalf of Rochester's 481 fire fighters, the 18,000 members of the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, and the 325,000 members of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

We stand united – and it is a fact that when any one of our members or the well-being of their families are jeopardized – their sisters and brothers are prepared to respond. Our commitment to one another is best summed this way -- *We will go anywhere; anytime.*

I ask that you take immediate steps to protect the community that you are sworn to serve and protect by returning the full complement of personnel to their respective stations and duty assignments.

Sincerely,

Sam Fresina, President
New York State Professional Fire Fighters

