



Stockton Professional Firefighters • Local 456

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April 27, 2011

Dear Stockton Residents,

Over the past few days, news stories have informed us all that the Fire Chief and an additional command staff member have filed separate lawsuits against the City of Stockton. While we do not know the specifics of either suit, nor do we have an opinion on the merits of either suit, we are concerned that the news reports of these private actions by individuals will leave you with a false impression as to the actual state of the Stockton Fire Department.

To be clear, the Stockton Fire Department continues to provide the excellent service it always has provided. While there may be disputes between administrators and City Hall, the firefighters who staff the rigs that serve our neighborhoods continue to provide quick, effective emergency medical and fire suppression services.

The fact is these disputes have nothing to do with how your firefighters do their job. Last weekend is a prime example. Over the course of the past weekend alone, we responded to 222 total calls for service including 3 residential building fires and 2 multi-alarm commercial structure fires.

Regardless of issues taking place with the administration, you have our firm commitment that frontline firefighters will provide each and every Stockton resident with the absolute best service possible. When the alarm bell rings, we still rush to the engines and we will continue to run into the burning building to save a life.

The true challenge to the Fire Department is in the significant budget cuts being proposed by the City Administration. The proposal will cut approximately 25% of the total number of fire engine companies in the city and 50% of the truck companies. While this proposal will not affect the passion we have for our job or our commitment to you as residents, it will limit our ability to protect you and your property when you need us most. There's no way around that.

Your firefighters are trying to do our part to assist in bridging the City's budget gap. We are actively engaged in negotiations and have made proposals that address long term issues such as pension and health care costs in addition to retiree health care issues. We'll continue to work to reach an agreement that protects fire and medical services for the community.

Regardless of what happens at City Hall, please know that it will not affect how we do our job in your neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Macedo', written in a cursive style.

Dave Macedo
President