



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

..letter

July 30, 2019

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders

Dear President Walker-Myers,

We would like to respectfully submit to the Board of Alders as a Communication, the attached Order calling for a public hearing before the appropriate Alder committee to discuss the “Staffing (Heavy Rescue) and Vacation Schedule” agreement recently reached between the City and the New Haven Firefighters Union. This document, signed by City Labor Relations Director Thomas McCarthy and Fire Union President Frank Ricci on July 12, 2019, states “This MOU and the terms and conditions herein, shall become effective upon signature.” While we appreciate that the broader agreement between the City and Firefighters Union will come before the Board of Alders for a vote before it takes effect, it appears the company staffing/personnel provision of the agreement takes effect immediately, based on the plain language of the document. This is concerning because this agreement could have a significant impact on the City budget and on public safety.

We therefore are writing to ask for a public hearing on the staffing/personnel provision of this agreement before the appropriate Board of Alders committee. We trust the Board will have the right to vote on the agreement if the public discussion demonstrates the agreement has a significant financial impact or public safety impact on the City.

We note that in the past when there have been staffing agreement changes, there were detailed presentations before the Board of Alders, and at affected Community Management Teams, with the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers. Since the recently passed budget included funding for an external study on fire staffing levels, based in part on the statements of the New Haven Fire Chief at the Finance Committee budget workshop indicating that such a study would be valuable, it seems odd that a decision would be made on staffing levels without either a study, or even any opportunity for a public discussion and/or questions from Alders.

It may be that after a public briefing before the appropriate Alder committee, and a chance for detailed questions, this MOU is found to be in the best interests of the City both from a safety perspective and a financial perspective. But we have serious concerns if it is to take effect without such a hearing and opportunity for the Board of Alders to have a voice in it taking effect.

Thank you for your consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

ABIGAIL ROTH
Alder, Ward 7

STEVEN WINTER
Alder, Ward 21

ANNA M. FESTA
Alder, Ward 10

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**ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING
TO DISCUSS THE “STAFFING (HEAVY RESCUE) AND VACATION SCHEDULE”
AGREEMENT RECENTLY REACHED BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE NEW HAVEN
FIREFIGHTERS UNION.**

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WHEREAS: A document entitled “Staffing (Heavy Rescue) and Vacation Schedule” details an agreement reached between the City and the New Haven Firefighters Union on July 12, 2019, which was signed by City Labor Relations Director Thomas McCarthy and Fire Union President Frank Ricci; and

WHEREAS: while we appreciate that the broader agreement between the City and Firefighters Union will come before the Board of Alders for a vote before it takes effect, it appears the company staffing/personnel provision of the agreement takes effect immediately, based on the plain language of the document; and

WHEREAS: we find this concerning because the agreement could have a significant impact on the City budget and on public safety, and in the past such staffing agreement changes have been presented and discussed with the Board of Alders and affected Community Management Teams; and

WHEREAS: we therefore are writing to ask for a public hearing on the staffing/personnel provision of this agreement before the appropriate Board of Alders committee, and trust that the Board will have the right to vote on the agreement if the public discussion demonstrates the agreement has a significant financial impact or public safety impact on the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that the New Haven Board of Alders conduct a public hearing to discuss the “Staffing (Heavy Rescue) and Vacation Schedule” agreement recently reached between the City and the New Haven Firefighters Union.