

# FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 29, 2001

The Fire Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 29, 2001 at 4:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT	COMMITTEE ABSENT	OFFICERS PRESENT
Pat Pomeroy, Chairman Bill Jaffa Dennis Kavanaugh	None	Mike Hutchinson

1. Hear an update on the International Fire Agency Accreditation of the Mesa Fire Department.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton, Assistant Fire Chief Paul Wilson and Management Assistant II Dorinda Larsen addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Chief Wilson reported that on August 23, 2001, the City of Mesa Fire Department received international fire agency accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). He explained that the Department is the fifth largest fire agency in the United States to receive such an accreditation. Chief Wilson stated that the accreditation process, which began in March of 1999, involved the efforts of 35 department members who, in addition to their regular duties, conducted the self-assessment, developed standards of response coverage, and also documented the performance indicators.

Chief Wilson presented the CFAI plaque to Chairman Pomeroy on behalf of the Fire Department.

The Committeemembers expressed appreciation to the Fire Department for their achievements and hard work in bringing this prestigious honor to the City of Mesa.

Chief Compton acknowledged the contributions of all the members of his department.

Chairman Pomeroy thanked staff for their presentation.

2. Discuss and consider the Emergency Ambulance Transportation Agreement Extension.

Committeemember Jaffa declared a potential conflict of interest and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on this item.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton, Assistant Fire Chief Gary Bradbury and Management Assistant II Dorinda Larsen addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Chief Bradbury said that staff is requesting approval to exercise the option of a one-year extension of the Emergency Ambulance Transportation Agreement between the City and Southwest/Rural Metro Corporation. He explained that the extension of the current agreement, which has been in effect since January 28, 1999, would allow the Fire Department to complete the process of developing a public/private partnership model for the provision of future emergency transportation services.

In response to a question from Chairman Pomeroy, Chief Bradbury clarified that the one-year option would extend the current agreement to February 28, 2003.

In response to a variety of concerns expressed by Committeemember Kavanaugh regarding a lessening of services by Southwest/Rural Metro Corporation, Chief Bradbury assured the Committee that in the last six months, Southwest has hired additional staff, operated well within the parameters of the current contract, and met response times and unit numbers. He also clarified that the Fire Department does have a Valley-wide regional plan for ambulance transport contingency throughout the Valley.

Chief Compton stressed the fact that the one-year extension of the Emergency Ambulance Transportation Agreement would allow the Fire Department to complete the extensive evaluation process in the development of an innovative public/private partnership model. He noted that various criteria being considered for the new model include enhanced customer service, improved response times, unit tracking, staffing levels, personnel management, workforce stability and revenue sharing.

It was moved by Committeemember Kavanaugh, seconded by Chairman Pomeroy, to recommend to the Council that staff be directed to exercise a one-year option to extend the current Emergency Ambulance Transportation Agreement between the City and Southwest/Rural Metro Corporation and to proceed on the development of a public/private partnership model.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Pomeroy-Kavanaugh  
ABSTAIN - Jaffa

Chairman Pomeroy declared the motion carried unanimously by those voting.

Chairman Pomeroy thanked staff for their presentation.

3. Hear an update on Fire & Life Safety Mobile Education Units.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton and Assistant Fire Chief Bob DeLeon addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item. Chief DeLeon reported that in an effort to educate the public regarding unintentional injuries and fires, the Fire Department has purchased two Mobile Education Units, one designed to enhance Risk Watch, the Department's comprehensive injury prevention program, and the second to encourage the installation of residential fire sprinklers.

Chief DeLeon explained that the units have been utilized at schools, public education events and at other specific programs involving fire and life safety education. He stated that the Risk Watch unit effectively reinforces many of the concepts which Mesa students are taught during the

comprehensive injury program. Chief DeLeon added that as a result of the City's new ordinance which requires homebuilders to offer the option of fire sprinklers in new homes, the sprinkler unit is a productive tool to demonstrate the advantages of such a system.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Fire Department is conducting an ongoing public education and marketing campaign regarding the installation of fire sprinklers in new home construction; the fact that at least one homebuilder has incorporated a fire sprinkler system in one of its model homes, and the fact that Committeemember Jaffa suggested that the homebuilder be invited to a future City Council meeting to acknowledge his efforts in this regard.

Chief Compton explained that with the enactment of the residential fire sprinkler ordinance, it was apparent that the process would require a period of time in which to increase public awareness of the law. He stated that the mobile sprinkler unit effectively demonstrates the benefits of residential fire sprinklers. Chief Compton added that although there have been a limited number of residential fire sprinkler installations to date, he is confident that from an evaluation standpoint, the second year of the program will be more effective.

Committeemember Jaffa requested that staff conduct research regarding whether other municipalities offer their citizens tax credits for opting to include fire sprinklers in new home construction.

In response to a question from Committeemember Kavanaugh, Chief DeLeon clarified that the Fire Department has received a positive response regarding the City's new ordinance which requires the installation of fire sprinklers in all new commercial buildings.

The Fire Committee toured the Fire and Life Safety Mobile Education Units.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Fire Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fire Committee Meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2001.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK