

Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # A

From: upsfireman1847@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Bonnie Cuprak; Frank Blanchard
Subject: RESOLUTION 5

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Norwich City Council;

I am writing today to express my opposition to Resolution 5. Not only is there no need for it, this is not the time to be putting forth such an agenda. In the middle of a worldwide pandemic and economic uncertainty, this is what members of the council are putting their efforts into? You were elected to lead our city and work to make Norwich a better place. Instead, the council members who chose to endorse this resolution, find it better serving to create a divide in the fire service. While firefighters are doing everything they can to find PPE, and people are dying exponentially in the world and government accessibility is limited, you decide to set forth in an unwarranted study?! This council should be ashamed of its self if this resolution passes. It is the most underhanded and despicable measure I can think of. This is not what leaders do.

Also, while no one knows the final financial outcome of this pandemic, certain council members see it fit to go out and spend an unknown amount of money on a study that is not needed. People are unemployed and uncertain if they'll even have a job when this over, and you want to just go and throw money around? Please tell me why there is such a rush to get this study done. Why the 90 day time table? Do certain council members have an agenda? It must be nice that you can hide behind this worldwide catastrophe and not have to look the citizens of Norwich in the eyes and tell them what you are doing.

Do the right thing as a city council member and bring the city together. Do not embark on journey that will only divide the community. Do not put forth this resolution. The money is not there, there is no need for it and the timing is wrong!

Respectfully, Robert J. Allen

8 West Town St

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

2020 APR -6 P 3:31

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Bonnie Cuprak

From: Pete Clark <petebike1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Citizen Comment April 6th meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Peter Clark
46 Perry Ave, Norwich, CT 06360

I can not understand the timing of a study on the fire departments during the covid19. The city should focus on the citizens and who is protecting the city. Aka your first responders, Backus Hospital, etc. How much is a 90 day study from an outside vender going to cost? It seams like the counsel is not focused on priorities that matter. Making sure Norwich has everything we need for Covid19. This pandemic is no joke, People are dying everyday. This study should be put off till after this pandemic and your citizens can attend a meeting in person.

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2020 APR -6 P 6:26

TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Matthew Clement <mclement5587@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Cc: Frank Blanchard
Subject: Hold off

Mr. Mayor,

As a concerned citizen and a dedicated volunteer firefighter I'd like to ask that you table resolution #5. We are in the middle of a global pandemic and I feel your efforts as well as the efforts of the city council would be better suited keeping the citizens of Norwich healthy.

Please take this into consideration this evening.

Respectfully,

Matthew Clement

Sent from my iPhone

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Chris Colonair <chris_colonair@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Opposition of Resolution 5 - 4/6/2020

Mayor Nystrom and the Norwich City Council at large;

I am writing in opposition of Resolution #5 as proposed in the agenda for the meeting of April 6, 2020.

At a time when this country is going through one of the most critically devastating health pandemics in modern times, the timing of this resolution by the Democratic Party of the Council is questionable at best and deceitful at worst. Due to the imposed limitations by the Governor it is impossible to allow for the open debate such a proposal warrants, and I believe that is exactly why this resolution was hastily placed into the agenda at this point in time – to bury it without opposition from the citizens who’s money will be frivolously spent to fund yet another “study” of the fire service in the City. I believe resolution #5 should be tabled until such time as fair and open discussion, as well as justification from the authors, can be held publicly and in such a manner as to allow input from the citizens being asked to fund this travesty, and from the very professionals this study aims to control; and at such a time as those professionals are not otherwise distracted from the grave scenario placed upon them by the current pandemic. There may be alternatives to a study that would save this already cash-starved city money which could be better spent actually serving the public and not trying to push the unilateral agenda of a small group of individuals. Lastly, and most importantly, there needs to be clear and defensible definition of the “problem” such a resolution aims to fix, as I believe such an immense funding should only be undertaken in the instance of a real problem, and not due to the ignorance of the Democratic Party.

Respectfully;

Chris Colonair
Capt., Yantic Fire Engine Company #1
Residence – Plumtree Dr, Norwich

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: cubanski <cubanski@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Cc: cubanski@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Fire study public comment

City of Norwich Council

I am Brian Cubanski of 16 Andrea Lane in Norwich.

When I had first heard of the proposal to study the Fire Service yet again in Norwich, I was displeased. The Democratic Council wants to waste money yet again on a frivolous study that will provide the same answers time and time again. In the present financial and social situation we are currently faced with today. You have the audacity to spend money which we dont have. Taxes are outrageous and we want to waste more money.

Many city employees are curreny furloughed or laid off. This is the kind of respect you show them. The egos need to be checked at the door in times of crisis and we need to wotk together. Trust me I can give my opinions on the fire service in Norwich and so could alot of other people in the City. I don't here much public out cry on how the Norwich Fire Service is Operating. Most think its perfectly fine.

Taxes are high in the CCD thats a given. The business climate isnt what it used to be in the city much has moved away. Certainly it cant afford the current fire potection that it receives. Cuts need to be made. You dont need a study to figure this out. Its simple mathematics.

Thanks for your time.

Brian Cubanski
Resident

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Peter Cuprak <pvc6821@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 9:16 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Resolution 5

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Peter Cuprak 85 Lambert Drive Norwich CT. 06360. I am against this resolution # 5 for a couple of reasons the first being the underhanded way four members snuck this in when you knew you would not have the in person appearances of the citizens you represent. I request you pull this Resolution as you have a daunting task ahead of you with the Budget staring you down. I cannot see the sense of spending about \$250,000 when you face the possibility of layoffs or increases in Property Taxes to cover your Board of Ed increases.

Alderman DeLucia you are spinning your wheels and just wasting the taxpayers money pull this resolution there are bigger fish to fry with the budget you will be facing. This is a personal vendetta with you and I suggest you save face .

Peter V. Cuprak

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2020 APR - 6 P 3: 31

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Bonnie Cuprak

From: red06360@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Council agenda item #5 4/6/2020

Good afternoon Mayor Nystrom:

Thank you for serving the City as Mayor.

I would like to comment on proposed resolution #5 concerning the RFP for a Fire Service Study.

There is a large cadre of valuable and well versed talent within ALL the Norwich departments to address the topics outlined. The best possible solutions can be made with local input and validated information.

If there is a need for outside resources I am sure the extended network we all have can access free assistance.

The timing of this topic, with limited ability for the public to comment in person, is interesting.

I am sure working together the fire service professionals in Norwich can come up with efficiencies for the future and at the same time build better relationships.

Robert Drozynski
33 Sachem Plains Road
Norwich CT. 06360

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2020 APR - 6 P 3:31

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Bonnie Cuprak

From: WILIAM R HADAM <wrhadam@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: City Council Meeting 4/6/20

Mr. Mayor,

First and foremost, I hope you and your family are well during this health crisis.

The purpose of this email is to address resolution #5 on tonight's city council meeting and I am requesting that you present this to the members of the city council:

Mr. Mayor, City Manager Solomone, and Members of Norwich City Council:

I feel that it is extremely poor timing to present a resolution requesting a study of the Fire Service in Norwich at this time of a global pandemic. With no opportunity for public comment during the meeting due to the aforementioned health crisis, this resolution should at the very least be tabled to a later date when public comment can be heard in person, or better yet, be completely rescinded. The reason I say "better yet be completely rescinded" is because history has shown that studies conducted in the past have turned out to be a waste of time and more importantly, a waste of taxpayer money. I have been an active member of the Taftville Volunteer Fire Department for the past 36 years having responded to more than 8,500 emergency calls and one thing I know is that the system in place works! The Volunteer as well as the paid Fire Departments in Norwich have continually evolved throughout the years to stay up to date with the latest training, tools and equipment to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Norwich. This resolution appears to be nothing more than another way to attempt to micromanage the fire service by certain members of City Government. This micromanagement is unnecessary and not welcome in the fire service because as stated earlier, the system in place works! We are currently in the midst of a worldwide history making event, and once again, members of the emergency services are on the front lines, putting ourselves as well as our families at risk. While we struggle daily to keep up our supply of personal protective equipment and stay up to date with the latest developments, we must take time away to address political issues such as this. While this may be an opportune time for the presenters of this resolution, it is extremely poor timing for the members of the Fire Service and moreover, the citizens of Norwich! Once again, I implore you to table or rescind this resolution.

Thank you for your time.

William R Hadam
Assistant Chief
Taftville Fire Department
P.O. Box 341 Taftville, Ct. 06380
Station: 860-887-6676 Cell: 860-213-1834
www.taftvillefire.org

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Bonnie Cuprak

From: Gloria Hayes <hayes.gloria@att.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Cc: Frank Blanchard
Subject: City study of Fire department

Resolution # 5

As a Concerned citizen, I would like to know why are you doing a study of all the fire departments at this time when there is nothing wrong with the fire service .. An assessment at this time is not needed, especially during a pandemic.... I would like to know where the Money is coming from.

How can this be done in 90 days.

I insist on tabling this matter till after we are cleared from this pandemic.

I reserve the right to speak before the council.

Thank you
Gloria Hayes
93 Lafayette st
Norwich Ct

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android

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2020 APR -6 PM 6:27

TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Adam Herz <aherz124@att.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: City Council Resloution

To whom it may concern,

I just want to know why the city council feels it is necessary right now to bring up a resolution to do a STUDY on the fire service in a NATIONAL PANDEMIC when thousands are without jobs including City Employees!! It's obscured that many city departments strive to have city employees live in the city of Norwich but when they are without a job they decide to spend money on a fire service study. I'm pretty sure the fire service could of course use some changes just like anything but it is very far from broken.

Thank you for your time,
Adam Herz
151 Yantic Road

Sent from my iPhone

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2020 APR -6 P 6:26

TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Peter Nystrom
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Fw: Citizen Comment New Business - Resolution #5

From: myrd50@comcast.net <myrd50@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak; Peter Nystrom
Cc: Yantic Fire
Subject: Citizen Comment New Business - Resolution #5

Brian Huggard, 130 North Wawecus Hill Rd. As a citizen of Norwich I would to express my disagreement with Resolution # 5 - "Request for proposal to complete an analysis of the entirety of the city's fire services." I feel at a time during a global health pandemic the city should not be spending any unnecessary funds & should only be spending on the essentials at this time. This study seems to be unnecessary & a huge waste of tax payer funds. Why does the council feel this is the time to waste tax payer funds? Why now at a time when citizens can't be at that meeting in person to express their opinions about this matter? This is not the time for frivolous spending by our city.

Thank You,
Brian Huggard

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: joe jackson <egpfd.car59@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Cc: East Great Plains Car 5
Subject: Resolution#5 Fire service analysis

Mr Mayor

I have concerns about going forward with a resolution that will impact the fire service in Norwich without residents being able to voice their concerns due to the currant pandemic and social-distancing imposed by the governor.

I would like to know what is the rush, sounds like the people supporting this resolution and trying to slip this thru without proper venting.

It also appears to be aimed at the volunteer fire service again, nice way to say thank you for your service during the medical circus we are facing.

I would also like to know where the funds are coming from to purchase another analysis that will prolly get shelved like all others we have had they don't say what certain members of the counsel want it to say.

I as a Norwich tax payer request that this resolution be tabled for a couple of months until a meeting where residents can voice their opinion, it is the right thing to do.

Joseph Jackson

7 Perry Avenue

Norwich,Ct.

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Jennifer <jennifer.kayser@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: City Council Agenda - Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Jennifer Kayser, 18 Maplewood Court

I am writing regarding agenda item 5) Relative to issue a Request for Proposal to complete an analysis of the entirety of the City's Fire Services (motion to refer to the Public Safety Committee). This is a waste of taxpayer time and money. Not to mention the timing is horrible!! We are all dealing with a pandemic that will be here through the fall and cannot even attend meetings, so trying to push this through now is not only wrong, it's shady! The people came out in force when this was last discussed....why try this again. I am OPPOSED to this resolution and ask this to be tabled indefinitely.

Respectfully,
Jenn Kayser
jennifer.kayser@comcast.net

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORMICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Louise Leake <louiseleake12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Question

To the Mayor and City Council.

I'm writing this, to show my displeasure with the actions on this year's council. We are in a time of crises with the nation and could be soon within the city. We continue to hear the New members of council attacking the very people that sacrifice so much for us. To me, they look to be wasting my tax money. This money was for the schools, Public safety (protection) and streets and roads.

Now we hear they are spending money on a study, again. This will be the 3rd or 4th one. In 60 years with little to no action on any of them? How are you going to be paying for this? Whose, budget will be cut to fund this? What is the cause of this review and what will be the issues looked at? If you do not have a valid issue, this review is not needed.

Louise Leake

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Exhibit # 0

Online Form Submittal: Contact the City Council

noreply@civicplus.com

Mon 4/6/2020 11:15 AM

To: Peter Nystrom <pnystrom@cityofnorwich.org>; Stacy Gould <sgould@cityofnorwich.org>; Joseph A. DeLucia <jdelucia@cityofnorwich.org>; William Nash <WNash@cityofnorwich.org>; John Salomone <jsalomone@cityofnorwich.org>; Mark Bettencourt <mbettencourt@cityofnorwich.org>; Derell Wilson <dwilson@cityofnorwich.org>; Ella Myles <emyles@cityofnorwich.org>;

Contact the City Council

Message to Mayor and City Council Members

To the mayor and city council,
Although I would directly benefit from a changes in the fire service as a taxpayer due to my address, what I am writing to you to say is yes there are issues with the fire department. You on public safety know who does what when it comes to the run cards. 100 studies will not address this unless you have accountability for each and every department. Money in my honest opinion would be better spent doing a follow up to the current disaster we are all living through now and address the areas of improvement. As far as apparatus please tell our elected officials in Hartford to stop pouring the poison on the roads in the winter that effectively cuts 10 years off of the life expectancy of a fire engine. Previously it was 30 years for a piece to operate. Now it is only 20. Please provide enough PPE especially turn out gear for our volunteers and paid firefighters. If we have 2 fires in 1 day and 1 set is soaked (wet) then we are putting our volunteers at risk if they only have 1 set of gear. I ask some of you who have no experience in public safety to join or shadow a fire company to see what exactly they do. Last but not least if you really want to save money, let the private ambulance company hire their own muscle to do their heavy lifting. Would be a lot less calls and would preserve our equipment much longer. Stay healthy and may God bless you all.

TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

2020 APR - 6 P 6: 26

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First Name

Gerald

Middle Initial

M

Last Name

Martin

Suffix

Field not completed.

Email	Jetmec40@aol.com
Phone Number	860-334-4211
File upload	<i>Field not completed.</i>

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Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # P

From: Cam Milton <camilton9827@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:43 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Resolution 5

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Mayor,

I understand that tonight the council will be voting on whether or not a fire study should be done in Norwich. I believe as a tax payer and firefighter that this is the absolute worst time to do it. We are in the middle of a pandemic and it seems as this just keeps getting worse. Going off of that, where is this money coming from to do this fire study? As a tax payer, I have the right to know. We keep wasting more and more money on things that we shouldn't be doing. Another question I have is why is this being done so quickly? Does anybody in the community even know this is trying to get done? That is unfair to the city and to the tax payers.

My final question is this. Why does it seem as though the volunteers are always get slammed and criticized even though we save the City of Norwich millions of dollars a year.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cameron Milton

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # Q

From: rmocek96@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Resolution 5 citizen comment

Ryan Mocek 143 Yantic Rd

I oppose the usage of taxpayer funds to conduct yet another fire service study in the city of Norwich. For a study, no one need go any further than our own chiefs, who are fully capable of answering any questions. Furthermore, this resolution comes at a time that appears completely underhanded and insensitive. Businesses are struggling to stay open and citizens are laid off, however some of the city council somehow feels the need to spend a ludicrous amount of money on a useless study. In addition, we recently spent a good chunk of time at public safety bickering about whose truck says what name on it, but a huge taxpayer expense for a new study isn't brought up at all? This makes the council seem incompetent, heartless, and runaway with their own personal vendetta. This wedge driving, especially at such an unprecedented and uncertain time, will not go over well with the people.

Thank you,
Ryan

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NORWICH CT

2020 APR - 6 P 6:26

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Bonnie Cuprak

From: Melanie Moon <melmoon821@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 8:10 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Cc: Peter Nystrom
Subject: Citizen Comment on New Business - Resolution #5

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a citizen, Melanie Moon, of Norwich residing at 130 North Wawecus Hill Rd I find it appalling that at a time of a national health pandemic some members of our city council want to waste public money to “complete an analysis of the entirety of the city’s fire service”. At anytime I feel this money could be better spent on several other issues plaguing this city but especially now when so many are out of work & worried about the economic struggle to our own homes & city. When people don’t know when & if things will return to normal that some of our city council is trying to sneak this analysis with a huge cost past the citizens during a time when people can’t physically attend the meetings to express their opposition. A cost of which isn’t even being given to the citizens as a estimated cost. I believe some on the council are counting on this to serve their own agenda & do not have the city’s best interests in mind. No money should be spent on anything which is NOT essential in this time of uncertainty. No one knows when this will end & what the final financial cost is going to be for this crisis. Your own first responders in this city don’t even have the proper PPE to protect themselves from this virus & your priority is misguided in funding an unnecessary analysis. What about spending money to protect your first responders, combat the opioid epidemic/overdoses in this city or help our schools & education budget instead of keep cutting things from our children. The members of this council have to start putting the citizens of Norwich first & stop trying to serve their own agenda. Shame on the people who brought this forward & thought this was a priority especially in this trying time right now. Melanie Moon

Sent from my iPhone

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2020 APR - 6 P 3: 31
TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: fkpotter@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Fifth Resolution

Mayor Nystrom and members of the Norwich City Council,

I write to offer comment on the proposal to fund a study on Norwich's fire services. Though I am a Norwich native, I am not a Norwich resident. However, I am a Norwich taxpayer, owning a 2 family home located within the CCD for the past 30 years. Being both a retired career fire officer and a former volunteer fire chief, I view this issue with a unique perspective. I can objectively see the concerns of all, but I don't believe that tinkering with it in such a major way is at all necessary. I appreciate and value both the career department and the 5 volunteer fire departments in Norwich. No one disputes that they each provide a great and necessary service to the residents and visitors to Norwich -on a daily basis. I also believe that they all work very well -both together, and separately whether in the CCD or the TCD. Norwich is fortunate.

To cut to the chase, it once again appears that the prevailing issue is spreading the CCD fire tax into the TCD. You would think that because I own a house in the CCD, I would be all for that, but I am not. Anything done along those lines, would in a short time decimate the volunteer fire departments that have capably served Norwich over many years, some for over a century. Look no further than the cities in CT where career departments have melded into traditionally volunteer districts. Simply check for yourself to see if the volunteer service thrived after -or even survived at all. Taxpayers throughout those cities are now paying much more taxes, and always will. I'm not naive, and certainly realize that volunteering anywhere is not nearly what it used to be. But, it should be supported by local government in every way possible because there is no better value for any municipalities limited funds. The LAST thing that Norwich can afford to do is to increase taxes. This study seems to be a solution in search of a problem. As I said earlier, they each provide a great and necessary service to the residents and visitors in Norwich. Why would you want to expend funds for an unnecessary study that could be used for so much more?

Fred K. Potter

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

From: thomas quinley <quinltg@snet.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Cc: Frank Blanchard; Chris Colonair; Donald Leary
Subject: Resolution #5 - RFP Associated with Norwich's Fire Service

Good afternoon Pete (Mayor Peter Nystrom),

I was more than a bit surprised to learn of the referenced fire study proposal request referenced above. The fact of the matter is that the timing of this request in relation to the ongoing Covid pandemic could not be worse. This concerns me because it appears to be tone deaf to our current primary focus and is a financial burden we do not need. At one of the key times in our collective history that all resources should be focused on a common goal and striving for the best health, safety, and well-being of the community, it appears that some may seek to divert attention and waste money, time, and resources at a critical time. I do not see the benefit.

This is not what our elected officials should be working on now, or diverting the critical attention of others. The near term focal point for our elected City Government should be in facilitating a more cohesive and blended Fire/EMS Service System that maximizes the strengths of all the various components. Norwich is more than fortunate to have a volunteer service that is comprised of a very large number of highly trained professionals that possess a wide variety of backgrounds and skill sets. These folks are all willing to give of their time and energy for the betterment of their community and neighbors to make everyone's life better and save a tremendous amount of money for the taxpayers.

We do not need to spend money that could be better utilized elsewhere for another "Consultant's Study" that will ultimately collect dust in a City Hall bookcase and not ultimately improve our current system. We need to draw upon all of the current knowledge base and the existing Leadership Team of all the Departments for answers. That would cost us nothing, other than a bit of time and listening. The results could be astounding!

Respectfully,

Tom Quinley, Yantic Firefighter/EMT
Norwich VFFRF Chair
Sent from my iPad

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NORWICH CT

City Council meeting agenda for 4/6/20

Exhibit # U

sieczkowski48@comcast.net

Mon 4/6/2020 4:03 PM

To: Peter Nystrom <pnystrom@cityofnorwich.org>;

Cc: William Nash <WNash@cityofnorwich.org>; Joseph A. DeLucia <jdelucia@cityofnorwich.org>; Mark Bettencourt <mbettencourt@cityofnorwich.org>; Stacy Gould <sgould@cityofnorwich.org>; Ella Myles <emyles@cityofnorwich.org>; bcuprak@cityofnorwich.org <bcuprak@cityofnorwich.org>; Derell Wilson <dwilson@cityofnorwich.org>;

Hello Mayor and Town Council Members-

I am writing this email to make my concerns of angst on the agenda of the City Council tonight.

There is absolutely zero reason to be looking at the Fire Dept. CCD issues at this time. This matter is not pressing and should be tabled for a few months so that we can focus on the issues at hand that are most important to the city's well being. Our businesses should be the forefront of this meeting and how to keep them from closing doors for good such as Cafe Otis has done. We cannot afford to have MORE EMPTY buildings and less tax revenue!

The issue of the CCD needs to be put on hold! I find it very sneaky and shady that this would be put up for discussion and vote when people cannot be there to voice concerns as taxpayers in this city have the right to! We DO NOT NEED BACK DOOR SNEAKY POLITICS!

I live in the Volunteer District and DO NOT support the CCD tax being passed on to all of us! The use of these sneaky practices are the reason why it makes it so easy for me to consider selling my home and relocating out of Norwich. I have lived here all my life and I am appalled that any Council members would want to sneak this into the agenda like this!

I am urging you to table this matter until a further date when we can actually hold an in person meeting and allow people to be on hand to speak and voice concerns as we are not able to now!

Respectfully-

Robin Sieczkowski
[48 McClellan Ave](mailto:48McClellanAve@comcast.net)

[Norwich, CT. 06360](mailto:Norwich.CT.06360@comcast.net)
860-917-6284

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Fire companies study

Exhibit # V

Ronald Stolz <pc3yfec78@gmail.com>

Sun 4/5/2020 9:21 PM

To: Peter Nystrom <pnystrom@cityofnorwich.org>;

Being involved with the Yantic Fire Engine Company for over 60 years my brother Walter Kane Chief for 18 years of that time this problem continues through the years to present. It is about time to move on.

Male and female paid or volunteer they are professionals. They are working together well. Politics and politicians need to stop rekindling this fire .

Most residents have no idea what this study is for and that their taxes will be going up.

The taxpayers that do know what this is all about have put their trust and faith in you to do the right thing. This does not mean sliding this through on this agenda. The timing is very bad people cannot express their opinions openly and ask questions. You were voted on to serve the people not to silent our voices. Shame on you.

Going forward I would hope you would work for the people lower taxes and put your time and energy to bring positive things to Norwich and stop wasting our money on studies that have been done before with no results

Pat stolz

Sent from my iPad

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2020 APR - 6 P 3:31
TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

From: greg stott <greg_stott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak; Yantic Fire; Chris Colonair
Subject: Fire Service Study proposal

April 6, 2020

Mayor and Council:

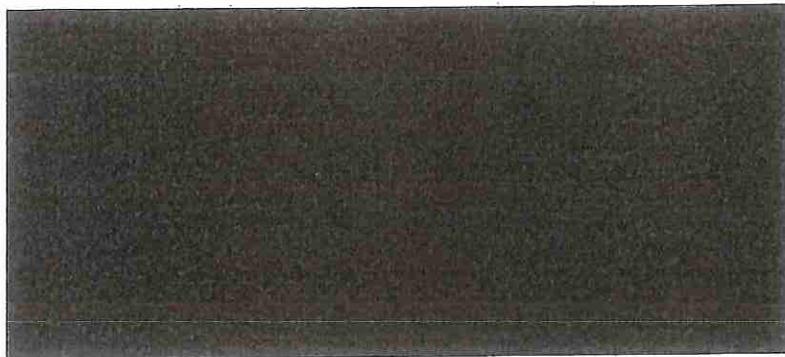
I'm writing in opposition to the democrat's latest proposal for a fire service study which could better be known as "A study to discuss why the career department is so far over budget."

After the last decade of horrendous mismanagement, with council after council being scammed (I prefer "Scand") into believing the norwich fire department is some sort of necessary entity, while in reality it only protects 13% of the city.

- The VOLUNTEERS protect 87% of the city.
- The VOLUNTEERS respond to more calls than the career department.
- The VOLUNTEERS historically have cost less than \$800,000 annually while the career department is over \$10,000,000
- The VOLUNTEERS given required equipment, handle almost every fire or large scale incident independently while almost every fire or large scale incident in the career district requires the VOLUNTEERS to go downtown to put the fire out.
- The VOLUNTEERS handle ALL the limited access highway, large scale industrial, and almost all the commercial occupancy WITHOUT THE CAREER DEPARTMENT.
- The VOLUNTEERS outstanding performance is continually recognized by all city residents:
 - A. successful bond vote for 4 new fire trucks in 2018.
 - B. refusal by Charter revision in 2014 to end the current dual tax fire districts in favor of the last attempt to steal taxes from the TCD; the hinchey/scamdariato "one-city tax proposal".
 - C. continued housing stock and commercial growth of the TCD while the CCD dwindles.
- 8 out of the 10 Largest taxpayers reside in the TCD, not the CCD.

In a 12/5/14 article on "one city tax" in the Day, Claire Bessette wrote "Everyone at the table agreed that the operational system does work well. Scandariato said the city enjoys "robust" volunteer departments he often relies on for calls that otherwise would overwhelm his staff."

[Norwich fire chiefs weigh in on 'one-city' tax](#)



TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

2020 APR -6 P 6:26

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Norwich fire chiefs weigh in on 'one-city' tax

Norwich - The city's fire chiefs - five volunteer and one paid - unanimously said the controversial question of ...

The career firefighters need volunteers to prevent being overwhelmed. The TCD doesn't need the career firefighters and anyone who says that is lying.

This isn't a referendum on the fire service, it's a discussion on the over budget career department no one wants to pay for.

Gregory Stott
Plain Hill Rd

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Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # X

From: Jerry Verant <jerry.r.verant@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Resolution 5

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I understand that the City Counsel will be voting tonight in regards to Resolution 5, the fire study. I feel as both a firefighter and a tax payer in the City of Norwich, that this is terrible timing. The world has been struck with a pandemic, the likes of which hasn't been seen since the Black Plague. Our focus not only as departments, cities, or states, but as the world should be on combating COVID19 and supplying those in the medical field with needed supplies. As a tax payer, I would like to know the goal behind this study. What is it that the fire service in Norwich is doing wrong? Why is the study required to be completed within 90 days? Three months does not seem like enough time for a qualitative study of any caliber to be completed. The fact that this resolution is being brought up at a time such as this, where citizens are unable to stand up and voice their opinion, is a backdoor attempt to spend hundreds of thousands of the taxpayer dollars on a study that doesn't need to be done. I voice my opinion in asking the counsel to table the resolution to a time where we can focus more energy on a study.

Very respectfully,

Jerry Verant
Deputy Chief
East Great Plain Vol. Fire Co.
860-383-9158

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Mr. Mayor,

4-6-20

Please forward to the city council for tonight's meeting.

Members of the Norwich City council the Norwich Volunteer Fire Chiefs don't support resolution #5, we question the timing of this resolution and the restriction that is in place to not allow us to engage, discuss and debate the merits of this resolution in your presence since no one is able to attend a council meeting or public safety meeting for the next 30 or more days.

We are presently dealing with a global pandemic as is the rest of the world, we are struggling with lack of proper PPE, managing new requirements almost daily on response and patient care and the number of cases & deaths just keep growing in our state and around the world.

We do feel this is being rushed through as it appeared on the agenda with no previous discussion or indication. To our knowledge there are no pressing issue with the fire services in our city, other than the one person who is a part of a small special interest group trying to promote the career department and disparage, ridicule and slander the volunteers departments and chief officers, We understand that the chairman of public safety wants to deliver the most efficient fire protection to the city of Norwich but your resolution lacks many things that should be considered if this resolution go's forward.

The newer council members should educate themselves on the existing system, departments, apparatus, software and many tools we use to deliver the fire protection to the citizens of Norwich.

The five original items listed on your resolution are all items the Fire Chiefs have worked and developed to provide efficient and effective results.

Existing response & dispatch assignments work as they have been used for years and are constantly modified as needed- as recent as last Friday even.

Standard response time data collection- this task is done by NED / police department and it is done the same way across the city in all departments, and in other municipalities, 5 years ago our city purchased a very robust system called Emergency Reporting used by all fire departments and it could provide you tremendous amounts data that you require and once the bridge it is completed between dispatch and the Emergency Program is up and running even more data will be available.

Communication has been an issue for decades. The cost to fix the issue could be staggering if you look at the big picture but for much less the talented Career and Volunteer Fire officers could make simple changes and greatly improve fire ground safety for a fraction of the cost if you could fund it.

Fire apparatus has been the topic of discussion for over a year with the city manager the Fire Chiefs have spent countless hours working on data collection developing an apparatus matrix, but now before it is complete it appears you don't want any of it.

Purchasing and inventory control- the city finance department handles all large purchases and inventory is done via the Emergency reporting system we are presently using; bulk purchasing is used on a regular basis when it is applicable.



Staffing - a review should be done as cost is always a concern and but this item should also include the volunteers firefighters our staffing and ability, with close to 200 highly trained and well-equipped Volunteer firefighters supported by the city career department this resource should not be overlooked or underestimated what the true cost saving is having the volunteer fire service in our city, when other towns are struggling to find volunteers.

Your reference to the last study done over 30 years ago and how Norwich has changed is the most important, with major loss of the vital downtown businesses and a prominent main street, the city was left to only reinvent itself time and time again, but the sad fact is even now - it is not even close to being as vibrant as it was decades ago, but we applaud everyone who works so hard to make it what it is today and is always trying to improve it.

Over the years the tax base shifted from the CCD to the TCD or out of town this creates many challenges one is the cost of the career department it is a constant challenge to justify the special benefit as outlined in the charter a cost which was established to cover the career fire department and it's 3.5 sq miles of coverage at a 10 million dollar plus annual cost.

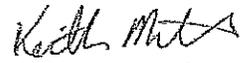
For years many creative mathematical formulas have been used to shift money to the CCD to offset costs, many of these were hardly fair to the TCD tax payer, with the volunteer departments covering more than 25 square miles of the city of Norwich for a less than 700 thousand dollars annual cost, a change in the Career department must be made.

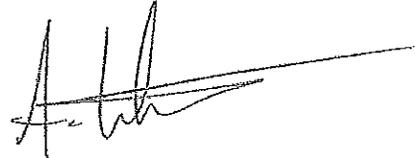
Do the right thing table this resolution until such time we can resume normal business and meet on a regular basis anything other than that is just taking advantage of the situation and not caring.

Respectfully-

Chief Blanchard- Yantic Fire 

Chief Jencks- Taftville fire 

Chief Milton- EGPFD 

Chief Westervelt- LHFD 

Chief Spaulding- OFD 

Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # Z

From: Betsy Wilson <betsyw4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Proposal for an analysis of fire services

Mayor Nystrom,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of the city of Norwich, CT as well as a Registered Nurse. We as a nation are dealing with a pandemic like never before. This meeting is not in person due to the guidelines of staying home unless essential personnel. Stay safe, stay home, stay healthy. I find it irresponsible to even consider having a decision on the proposal of an analysis of fire services at this time.

1- this is not an essential task to be done at this time.

This is time is about controlling the spread of Covid19.

2- where is this money coming from and is it wise when finances are so unknown at this time?

3- keeping our frontline services safe and healthy should be the priority not a analysis study and with a 90 day turnaround.

I hope you as the city leader will think hard and realize this is a matter for another time. Today let's focus on keeping the city safe from this pandemic to the best we can.

Thank you for your time,
Elizabeth Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

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TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # AA

From: Kyle Wilson <kcwilson8@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Resolution 5

Dear Mayor Nystrom,

I am writing to you regarding Resolution 5 and the concerns that, I and many others, who I have spoken to have with this. Firstly, as a tax payers of the City of Norwich, I am curious as to the necessity for this for this study, on what grounds does it stand? Is a target objective? If so, what issues? The fact that the city council is bringing this to a vote while there can be no citizens present to speak publicly on the matter makes it very difficult to object against this study. Another concern is the timing of this study. We are in the middle of the global pandemic. Providing the fire services with proper personal protective equipment, which is in short supply, should be of the greatest concern in order to protect both us, the firefighters and the community in which we service. As a volunteer firefighter in the City of Norwich, it is frustrating that council members and citizens constantly fail to realize the enormity of money which we save the city, and thus taxpayers. I believe the services provided by these departments are beyond adequate and should be given more respect and funding, rather than continually having to defend our existence. Additionally, the study is said to last for 90 days. As an educated individual, I believe this to be laughable. A study that can potentially have such an immense impact on these departments cannot be looked at in a macro-sighted perspective. I would like to know what this study is achieving to accomplish and have more information as to its motives. It is my prerogative that this study be table until after this time of national crisis, it not terminated completely.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Kyle C. Wilson _____ This email was scanned by Bitdefender

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