



Idyllwild Fire Protection District

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12/28/11

Mr. Neufeld,

As per your e-mail of 11/27/11 requesting my resignation I hereby tender it.

However, I want to make it clear that I do not agree with the Board of Commissioners decision to "take the department in a new direction" and there are two issues here. First, the new direction has not been explained to me and therefore I will not be given a chance to perform under the new direction. Also after 39 years of fire service experience, the board has not sought my advice on this new direction.

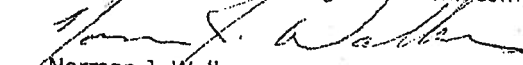
Secondly, if that new direction in any way diminishes service to the public in Idyllwild and Pine Cove or creates hostility between the board and the career firefighters or the volunteer fire company, the action should be condemned by the public. Replacing career firefighters with paid call firefighters will be just such an action. There is no evidence that the paid call program is any longer viable because of the commitment the members have to their primary jobs.

My record from May 17, 2010 to July 31, 2010 as Interim Chief and August 1, 2010 to the present as Fire Chief represents bringing IFPD from a disorganized fire department to a well-organized and respected fire department. Training files are secured and organized and financial files are also secured and organized. Bank accounts are reconciled and daily reports on the total amount of our assets can be produced.

IFPD income has increased twice due to my close work with Supervisor Stone and with REMS to approve ambulance transport rates that were neglected during the previous administration.

A fire department is a business and the demand for quality service comes from the public it serves. I have put into place sound business practices during my tenure. The quality standards for training, performance and equipment comes from REMS, the state fire marshal's office, NWCG, NFPA and OSHA. A Board and a Fire Chief cannot circumvent those standards in order to save money. I hope that is not what's about to happen.

Since there was no support for me when the Board voted on this matter and since I have been asked to submit my resignation I will comply effective 12/31/11.


Norman J. Walker
Fire Chief
Idyllwild Fire Protection District

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