



**First Fire Protection District**  
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**Trustee Pedersen    Trustee Van Patten    Trustee Tabar    Administrator Jozefiak**

To: Antioch Rescue Squad Board and Members  
From: First Fire Prevention District of Antioch  
March 18, 2014

Dear Antioch Rescue Squad,

The Antioch Rescue Squad has a long and important history in the Antioch community. Your years of committed and dedicated service have saved the lives of countless residents of our town. Your place in Antioch's history will never be forgotten. You have continued to provide EMS services to the District this past year in spite of a financially unsustainable system.

The First Fire District is committed to the vision that was adopted in September 2013. The vision identifies fire and EMS services for the entire community, village and district, with one unified command, and under the jurisdiction of an elected board of directors. As we continue to work through the specifics, it has become clear that having sufficient funds to operate the EMS system is the most critical imperative. The billing for services will never match the costs of personnel, equipment, and operations. This can only be accomplished through a tax levy for the purposes of EMS services.

The ARS has indicated that they cannot continue along the path of using up limited financial reserves to fund services to the District residents. It is apparent that the time has come for the District to look at options to provide EMS services other than our long time partnership with ARS. The District, along with the Village of Antioch, is working to establish an EMS tax levy to be decided by the voters in November 2014.

Starting in May the District will provide EMS services through the Antioch Fire Department. The model will utilize qualified fire/EMS personnel in stations #1 and #2 and a "jump crew" that will allow a combination fire/EMS crew at station #3. This will equip all three stations with both fire and EMS services, something we have never had before. This system will enhance the fire/EMS services available and place complete financial, operational, and personnel control under unified command of the Fire Department. The ultimate goal is to have a consolidated fire/EMS system for the entire Village and Township of Antioch overseen by an elected Board from the population as a whole.

With that in mind, the First Fire District does see potential for the Antioch Rescue Squad to continue be of service to the Antioch community. There is a place for any of your qualified members to join the ranks of the Antioch Fire Department either as strictly EMS responders or additionally as fire fighter certified. There is also a great need in Antioch for community health services other than strictly emergency. Ideas such as wellness programs, home care for the elderly, AHAA services, and other ideas abound. We would be pleased to a part of that conversation regarding the future.

As the contract with ARS expires in May 2014, The Fire District looks not to an end, but rather to a change in direction, that will be beneficial for all members of our community.

Sincerely,

Dean Pedersen  
Carolyn Van Patten  
Matt Tabar