

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

35

October 22, 2012

Date

Request from Todd A. Francisco, President, Local 4 – International Association of Fire Fighters, to speak regarding their perspective of the FY13 budget impact of the cuts within the Fire Department.

Moved by _____ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

_____ City Clerk

REGISTRATION FORM TO SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FILED

To: The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of the City Council
City of Des Moines, Iowa
c/o City Clerk

2012 OCT 17 PM 12:16

CITY CLERK
DES MOINES, IA

I/We TOMAS A. FRANCISCO . PRESIDENT LOCAL 4 -IAFF
(Please Print)

hereby request permission to speak at the Des Moines City Council
meeting of 10-22-12, regarding

LOCAL 4'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE FY13 BUDGET IMPACT WITH
REGARDS TO CUTS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Name: Tomas A. Francisco
(Signature)

Address: P.O. Box 1821, DM 50305

Daytime Phone: 515-205-5598

PROCEDURAL RULES OF DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL:

Part III. Agenda

Rule 16. Citizen Agenda Requests. Any citizen may request the right to have an item placed on the Agenda (including a request to speak) by filing such request in writing with the City Clerk prior to noon on the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting.

Part V. Citizen Participation

Rule 27. Citizen's Right to Address Council. Persons other than Council Members shall be permitted to address the Council only upon specific Agenda Items.

Des Moines Association of Professional Fire Fighters

International Association of Fire Fighters Local #4

FILED

Date: 16 Oct 2012

2012 OCT 17 PM 12:16

To: Des Moines City Council
400 Robert D. Ray Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50309

CITY CLERK
DES MOINES, IA

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On 27 February 2012 the council passed the proposed FY2013 budget. During that meeting Councilman Coleman moved that the manager set up a monitoring system for the budget cuts as to how they affect service. (12-0334 and 12-0335) That budget contained several cuts within the Fire Department. Those budget reductions have a direct impact on the public, the city, the department and our members. I don't know what provisions the manager or the Chief has put in place, but Local 4 felt it would help to give our perceptions of the cuts and the impact our members are facing to help fulfill Councilman's Coleman request.

The cuts included the reduction of emergency personnel that included the reduction of a Medic (ambulance) unit which necessitated the relocation and merging of two Medic units. The reduction also included the elimination of some Captains and the creation of a Duty/Safety/Training Officer position.

The Captain reduction included having Lieutenants replacing them doing the same work. This is a discussion Local 4 is having with the city right now. The city and Local 4 have reached settlement in the Duty Officer position. Therefore we will constrain this discussion as to the reduction of a medic unit.

On 2 April 2012 Medic units 6 and 4 were removed from service which facilitated the creation of Medic 1. Medic unit 6 was housed at 1919 SE 6th and Medic 4 was housed at 917 University. Medic 1 is currently housed at 900 Mulberry. It is important to note that Medic 4 was the busiest apparatus not only in the city but the state of Iowa. Medic 6 was generally the second busiest only to share the distinction with Medic 3 on occasion. When Local 4 became aware of the removal and merging of these units we shared concerns as to the workload that the new unit would encounter. It is not a big assumption to infer that if you remove and then combine the two essentially busiest units in the state that the workload would intensify. As of 10-15-12 Medic 3 averaged 208 runs per month. The creation of Medic 1 from 4-2-12 to 10-15-12 has averaged 299 runs per month. The elimination of Medic unit brought other issues as well. We have seen an increase in the use of outside resources. Dispatch has had to call the private services like Mercy and Frasier ambulance when we run out of Medic units.

Des Moines Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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This extra workload has taken a toll on our internal customers and your number one asset, your firefighters. They are being worked to the brink of exhaustion. Chief TeKippe realized this as reflected in the transfer sheet dated 17 Sept 2012. In that transfer the administration facilitated the switch of Medic 10 and Medic 1. As quoted by the Chief, "I switched the slowest for the busiest." It is interesting to note that Medic 1 has only been in existence for 6 months and was already recognized in the need for relief. I have growing concerns that once we rotate all the crews, what do we do next?

In conversations with the Chief he has recognized that there is an increased work load and informed me that he was going to analyze data now that we were approaching four months of Medic 1 in service. (That conversation was in August) He felt that should give some reliable data as a quarter of a year. I applaud this effort.

In doing some research for another project, I watched a Tri-Data video taped presentation of their recommendation for the department. It was interesting. Tri Data was commissioned by the council in 1997 to audit and give their input on the status of DMFD. What was interesting is back in 1997, they said we were as lean and mean as we could get and recommended the potential for a station 11 within 5 years of that survey due to the growth potential. They suggested keeping 6 ladders in service of which we cut one since as well as an engine. We have since annexed to the northeast and southeast substantially as well as an agreement to provide EMS service to the Polk County Jail. (located outside the city) We have taken on greater service responsibilities with far less resources. If we were as lean and mean as we could get in 1997 and now the city has grown and calls for service has increased, what are we today? Emaciated, I should think.

Calls for service has steadily increased since the beginning of my tenure. When I started in January of 1990, we had roughly 13,000 calls per year for service with roughly the same staffing levels as today and now we are just short of 20,000. We are on track to break 20K this year. Our service to the city is personnel based. In other words, it is the boots on the ground that will bandage the broken arm, extricate someone from the car crash they were just in, save someone's home from fire, and help your greatest asset, firefighters, to go home safe in the morning. It had been stated that the council has been good to the fire department. We just built a new training and maintenance facility and building a new station 1. You have replaced very old and much needed CIP projects. However, concrete and steel won't get the FD apparatus and emergency responders there, nor will it do good compressions during CPR, but that Firefighter/EMT will.

Des Moines Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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In conclusion Local 4 wanted to give our perspective to the Council's request for a follow up report to the cuts. I would have to agree with the Mayor with one exception, the DMFD was already cutting tendons prior to the FY2013 budget approval and down to bone after. I anxiously await the report from the managers office. Worth noting; President Obama had released millions of dollars for awards under the SAFER (Staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant program. We missed another window in July for the federal SAFER grants where, if awarded, could have given some relief and put a medic unit or more back in service to protect the citizenry and our number one asset, Firefighters.

I very much thank you for your time and your own service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd A. Francisco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Todd A. Francisco
President, IAFF-Local 4
DMAPFF