



17TH CHARTER REVISION
 COMMISSION
 Public Safety &
 Health/Education/Ethics Committee
www.stamfordcharterrevision.org

C/O Office of the Board of Representatives, 4th Floor, Government Center,
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 CLARENCE R. GREBEY, III
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 GAIL S. OKUN
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February 27, 2012

Hamden Fire Department
~~245 Johnson Road~~ 2750 Dixwell Ave
 Hamden, CT 06518

Dear Chief:

The City of Stamford is currently undergoing a Charter Revision. In this context it is reviewing the current language with regard to the delivery of fire and rescue services within the community. We would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to answer the following questions as they relate to the delivery of fire services within your community and return this questionnaire for our consideration.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. Is the fire delivery service in your community a "combined service," i.e., comprised of career and volunteer firefighters? If your answer to the foregoing is "No", do not go any further.
2. Do you have multiple fire districts/houses within your community? If so,
 - a. How many districts/firehouses? ~~1~~ Districts 7 Firehouses
 - b. Are some districts/firehouses exclusively covered by career firefighters and some by volunteer firefighters? YES NO
 - c. Are some districts/firehouses covered by a combination of career and volunteer firefighters? YES NO
 - i. In districts/firehouses in which there are both career and volunteer firefighters, do they all answer to the same command structure and take direction from the same supervisor(s)? YES NO
 - ii. Who makes the decision with regard to staffing and allocation of resources for the individual fire districts/firehouses with career and volunteer firefighters?
FIRE CHIEF
3. How long have has your community had a combined fire delivery service? Yrs.
4. Are there any Charter provisions which address the combined fire delivery service within your community? YES NO

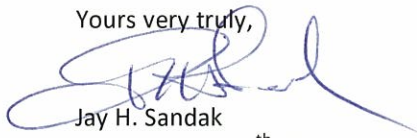
5. If so, please attach a copy of the pertinent provisions.
6. Do you have a single individual who has direct responsibility for BOTH the career and volunteer firefighters within your community? YES NO
7. Do you have a single set of standard operating procedures ("SOP") for both the career and volunteer firefighters? YES NO
8. Do you have a uniform training program for both the career and volunteer firefighters? YES NO
9. Do the volunteer fire companies have their own "chiefs"? If so, do they have command of both volunteer and career firefighters within their district/firehouse?

no

10. Please comment on how the combined fire service is working within your community. Due to the challenges facing our volunteer members, our combined system is essentially weak. Obligations to work, family and life overall have played a large part in decreasing of numbers.

11. If you are willing to receive any follow-up inquires, please provide your name and contact information:
 NAME: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

Thank you for assisting us as we review the Stamford Charter with regard to our combined fire service program in Stamford.

Yours very truly,

 Jay H. Sandak
 Co-Chairman, 17th Charter Revision Commission

Please return responses to:

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Or

E-Mail: charterrevision@ci.stamford.ct.us

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(c) Additional Duties and Responsibilities.

(i) The Chief shall be responsible for the training, efficiency, discipline and good conduct of all members of the Department and the care and custody of all property used by said Department, and shall consult with the Police Commission on the general management of the Department, including, but not limited to, prior consultation on budgetary matters and as otherwise required by §8-1.C of this Charter.

(ii) The Chief may discipline members of the Department for violation of rules and regulations of the Department. Any such disciplinary action may be appealed by the individual to the Police Commission. The appeal of such disciplinary action shall stay the imposition of the discipline until the appeal is decided by the Commission unless the Chief finds that immediate suspension with pay is required to ensure the public safety, which finding is subject to immediate review by the Commission.

(iii) The Chief shall assign all members of the regular divisions to their respective posts, shifts, details and duties.

B. The Fire Department.

(1) The Fire Department shall consist of the regular and volunteer divisions which shall be responsible for the protection of life and property in the Town from fire and other like disasters and emergencies, and for the enforcement of all Laws, Ordinances, and regulations relating to fire prevention and fire safety.

(2) **The Fire Chief - Powers and Duties.** The head of the Fire Department shall be the Fire Chief who shall be responsible for the general management and operations of the Fire Department. In this regard, the Chief shall propose, in writing, policies, rules and regulations concerning the general management and operations of said Department and the conduct of all its members, subject to approval by the Fire Commission.

(a) **Appointment.** The Mayor shall appoint the Fire Chief as set forth in §8-2.B of this Charter; however, the Chief may be removed from office in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes. The Fire Chief shall hold office until Completion of Service or until a successor shall be appointed and shall have qualified.

(b) **Qualifications.** The Fire Chief shall meet the

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requirements, qualifications and certifications, as may be set forth in the General Statutes and required by the Town in accordance with nationally accepted professional standards and best practices in the applicable field as developed pursuant to §8-2.F of this Charter.

(c) Additional Duties and Responsibilities.

(i) The Fire Chief shall assign all members of the regular divisions to their respective posts, shifts, details and duties.

(ii) The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the training, efficiency, discipline and good conduct of the regular and volunteer divisions and for the care and custody of all property used by the Department.

(iii) The Fire Chief shall consult with the Fire Commission on the general management of the Department, including, but not limited to, prior consultation on budgetary matters and as otherwise required by §8-1.C of this Charter;

(iv) The Chief may discipline members of the Department for violation of rules and regulations of the Department, where applicable in accordance with the General Statutes.

(v) Any such disciplinary action may be appealed by the individual to the Fire Commission. The appeal of such disciplinary action shall stay the imposition of the discipline until the appeal is decided by the Commission unless the Chief finds that immediate suspension with pay is required to ensure the public safety, which finding is subject to immediate review by the Commission.

(3) The Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal(s) and Deputy Fire Marshal(s) shall be appointed as set forth in §7-2.D (3) (d) of this Charter.

(4) Volunteer Companies. Nothing in this Charter shall be construed to affect the organization, status or property of the active volunteer fire companies. Whenever regular and volunteer companies are acting together, they shall be under the command of the ranking officer of the regular Fire Department present at the scene.

C. The Health District.

(1) Under provisions of the General Statutes governing Health Districts, the Town is authorized to enter into such a District. Any