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17TH CHARTER REVISION
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Public Safety &
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C/O Office of the Board of Representatives, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Blvd. P.O. Box 10152, Stamford, CT 06904
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JAY H. SANDAK, Chair
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February 27, 2012

Ridgefield Fire Department
6 Catoonah Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

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. *Yes*

2. Do you have multiple fire districts/houses within your community? If so,

a. How many districts/firehouses? 1 Districts 2 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)? NO 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? 50 Yrs.

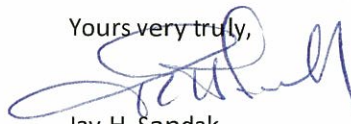
4. Are there any Charter provisions which address the combined fire delivery service within your community? YES NO

*2 houses
xl combination
xl career*

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 *Fire Chief*
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?
Yes, command responsibilities at incidents only.
10. Please comment on how the combined fire service is working within your community. *Ridgefield's system works well: 40 career members + 60 volunteer members working in various capacities. Roles + responsibilities are well defined + adherence to an established command system works. Constant communications & dialog support a good relationship.*
11. If you are willing to receive any follow-up inquires, please provide your name and contact information:
NAME: *Heather Burford*
E-Mail: *[initials]*
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



Town of Ridgefield
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HEATHER BURFORD
FIRE CHIEF

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