



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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February 27, 2012

West Shore Fire District
 P. O. Box 16763
 West Haven, CT 06516

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? 3 Districts 8 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?
The Fire Chief of each District under the auspices of each respective Fire Commission (3)
3. How long have has your community had a combined fire delivery service? 10 Yrs.
4. Are there any Charter provisions which address the combined fire delivery service within your community? YES NO The City of West Haven has a charter provision to fund and operate a Fire Department. Interoperability between West Shore, West Haven, and Allingtown is covered by mutual aid agreements

5. If so, please attach a copy of the pertinent provisions. *You will have to set that from the City of West Haven website.*
6. Do you have a single individual who has direct responsibility for BOTH the career and volunteer firefighters within your community? YES NO *Fire Chiefs of each District*
7. Do you have a single set of standard operating procedures ("SOP") for both the career and volunteer firefighters? YES NO *Each District has it's own SOP's but some have been combined, especially Fire Marshal matters.*
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?

Only Allington, Volunteer Chief has no fireground authority. All volunteers are under command of paid personnel.

10. Please comment on how the combined fire service is working within your community. *The three West Haven Fire Districts work very well together, this has only been the case for the last 4-5 years when new mutual aid agreements were crafted. Prior to 2007 we rarely crossed borders. It is my opinion that our City would be better served by a consolidated F.D. as long as current manpower is maintained.*

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

NAME: Chief David A. Collins
 E-Mail: DCOLLINS@WESTSHOREFD.COM
 ADDRESS: 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT 06516

203-815-4526

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

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P.S. FYI. The Allington F.D. Board of Fire Commissioners and citizens have voted to dissolve the Allington FD and hope to merge with the City of

West Haven. Lawyers for the AFD and the City are currently crafting an agreement to present to the W.H. City Council for approval. If approved Allington will remain a District under City control, if not approved, Allington is going to ask for intervention by CT State O.P.M. This is all happening because Allington cannot pass a budget.