



Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District

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October 20, 2020

The Honorable Brian Hamman
Lee County Board of Commissioners
2120 Main St.
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Dear Commissioner Hamman:

On behalf of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District, thank you for your support as we have navigated through a busy year for our District.

On August 18, 2020, voters approved an alternative method to fund the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District known as Simplified Fire. During the month of September, the District's Board of Commissioners held a public hearing regarding the change, approved the resolution, and later approved a budget that reflects the revenue anticipated from the Simplified Fire methodology. Under the Simplified Fire methodology, we will be able to continue offering community-exemptions, which includes religious institutions in accordance with Section 196.196 in Florida Statutes.

Also in the month of September, we received notice that our District will receive Federal funding under the Department of Homeland Security's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. This grant will directly fund the additional firefighter positions needed to staff the new Station 106, which is currently under development. This new station, located in the Northwest section of the District, will significantly enhance our ability to meet the emergency response needs of the community.

As you are aware, our fire district has experienced many challenges while dealing with a significant growth in population over the last decade and is now the fastest-growing community in Lee County. Since the recession in 2009, the District has continued to provide fire prevention and suppression, Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services (ALS/EMS), and ambulance transport services with the same five (5) fire stations. During this same timeframe, the District has experienced over a 46% increase in call volume. With this new funding methodology and the assistance of the SAFER grant, we are confident we will be able to continue to provide the best possible service to our growing community in the future.

The District has already acquired the necessary property for the sixth fire station and is currently in the development order and permitting stage. I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress as well as other exciting news in the District. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is a way for us to collaborate with you on community projects here in our District. Thank you again for your continued support of our efforts.

Respectfully,


Chief Robert DiLallo
Fire Chief


Catherine Kruse
Chair

cc: LAFCRD Board of Commissioners