

March 8, 2024

Dear Mayor Nichols and City Council,

This letter is to inform you that we are resigning our positions with the City of North College Hill Fire Department effective March 17, 2024, at 06:00. As most of you are aware, there have been multiple issues and concerns voiced, and presented with regard to the poor performance and hostile actions of City Administrator, Jennifer Ekey and HR Clerk, Debra Eldridge as they relate to the fire department operations and its members.

Despite assurances from the Law Director that our issues would be addressed, few if any have been resolved and what appears to be little to no effort put forth regarding investigating our concerns. Meanwhile the hostilities, both overt and covert, have been allowed to continue.

Due to this seeming lack of accountability and the administration's continued failure to intervene on our behalf we have elected to resign our positions. The personal toll of the continued distress caused by Mrs. Ekey and Mrs. Eldridge on the membership, which has had a devastating effect on morale, recruitment, retention and day-to-day operations, is no longer tolerable.

While we regret the circumstances under which we are leaving and the hardship this will undoubtedly place on the residents of our community and those of neighboring communities we feel strongly that the safety of the residents and future of the fire department is at great risk and have exhausted all options at our disposal, including providing the law director the time requested (4 weeks) to address these issues prior to reaching this decision. Ultimately, Mrs. Ekey and Mrs. Eldridge have not been held accountable for any of their wrongdoings and despite our pleas for help none has been provided and our concerns marginalized.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in this matter and have opted to extend our departure date beyond this announcement so that city administration can take the measures necessary to ensure a transition of leadership and reduce the negative effects on emergency operations. We sincerely hope that our resignations will prompt the changes needed to ensure the emergency services provided by this fire department to the community continue now and into the future.

Thank you for your time and understanding during this conflict.


Sincerely,



Brian Fels, Fire Chief, Paramedic



Joseph Placke, Deputy Chief (Operations), Paramedic



Ryan Schwitalski, Deputy Chief (Human Resources), Paramedic

Savannah Rechel, Lieutenant (EMS), Paramedic





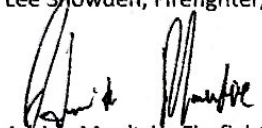
Kurt Kaufman, Lieutenant (Apparatus & Maintenance), Paramedic



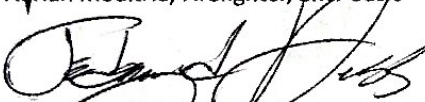
Matthew Wright, Lieutenant (Communications & Hydrants), Paramedic



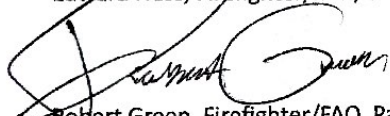
Lee Snowden, Firefighter/FAO, Paramedic



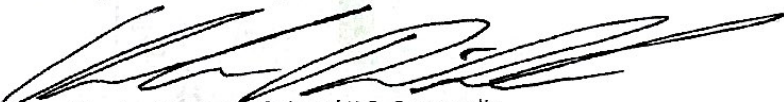
Adrian Moultrie, Firefighter, EMT-Basic



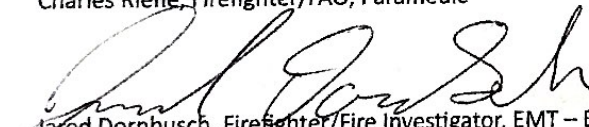
Edward Hess, Firefighter/FAO, EMT - Basic




Robert Green, Firefighter/FAO, Paramedic



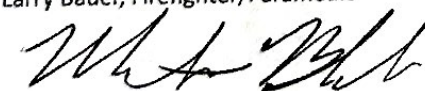
Charles Riefe, Firefighter/FAO, Paramedic



Jared Dornbusch, Firefighter/Fire Investigator, EMT - Basic



Larry Bauer, Firefighter/Paramedic



Matt Black, Firefighter/Paramedic



Michael Carraher, Firefighter/Paramedic