From: Matt Greiner
To: Kimberly Corcoran; Bryan Craig
Subject: Correspondence to RHFD Board Members
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:57:37 PM

Good evening citizens and members of the board. My name is Matt Greiner and I am a firefighter here with Rodeo-Hercules. I was hired over 4 years ago and have a total of 6 years in the fire service. I have written this letter to give you a standpoint in favor of annexation straight from one of your firefighters here in the district. I come from a unique background because I was first hired with East Contra Costa County Fire back in 2015. Retention of firefighters, inadequate amount of stations and personnel, and an abundance of calls were all huge issues during my time there and I later made a decision and left to be a firefighter here in the district. I am afraid to say we are headed down the same path and dealing with these same issues here to this day. Retention is a huge issue here at RHFD as well and has been since I got hired here over four years ago. We have lost great firefighters to surrounding agencies due to pay, greater opportunities in advancement elsewhere, and lack of access to higher levels of training that other departments offer. Contra Costa County Fire has training divisions and multiple chiefs who are in charge of specific programs within the department. We are only 18 personnel and 2 Chiefs which means that this massive work load falls on all of our

shoulders on top of the rigorous day to day of what our job consists of. This means that each one of us runs a program. From taking care of the building and grounds, to personal protective equipment, to inspections within our district, and running all of our community programs to stay involved just to name a few. We have no choice but to keep these running and do proudly but we are overworked and exhausted especially with the ever growing and dangerous summer fire seasons that have ravaged California every year. Just like right now as multiple areas are burning in the state today. With this annexation that massive workload is taken from our shoulders which is a huge benefit to us and to the community. This allows these programs to flourish with the appropriate personnel being able to run these day to day as their main and only focus. Most importantly that massive workload is lifted from us and allows us to be better focused on our day to day jobs and be better firefighters for our community each and every day. Our district is continuously building all over which means a massive increase in population and call volume for us that is inevitability coming. We lack the resources and personnel to sustain that growth. I am not putting down our district in any way. I have roots that run deep here in Rodeo. My great grandpa was one of the original volunteer firefighters here and

later became one of the first paid firefighters in the merge between Rodeo and Hercules. I grew up here and still have family and very close friends that live in the district. I would not be pushing annexation if it was not a huge benefit for the citizens which are my family and friends. This is why I find it beneficial as one of your firefighters to explain the benefits. With annexation the service to the community will greatly increase with access to more personnel, better equipment, special resources, and a massive training division to just name a few. An influx of money right now does not fix our current and future problems but annexation does. We have had to shutdown stations in the past and just last year we dropped our service from advanced life support to basic life support. This means we had no paramedics on our fire engines providing a higher level of service to our citizens. That is unacceptable to me and something I never want to see happen again. This was due to multiple injuries, which happen in our line of work very often, and personnel being overworked with the dangerous fire seasons that have gotten worse each year. Annexation brings 300+ firefighters as dedicated and caring as your 18 personnel here in the district today to combat these major issues we face today. To the citizens of this district, from the bottom of my heart, I truly believe and know that annexation is the best

possible thing for this district and I hope I was able to better paint that picture with this letter. To our board members. I hope hearing directly from your fire personnel has an impact on each and every one of you here today and I hope that you will listen to what we have said and make the right decision and vote in favor of this annexation . Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely FF Greiner