Good Evening Chair, Board and Community Members,

Thank you for your time and allowing me to speak tonight. My name is Carlo Granzella and I am a Probationary Firemen with Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. I come before you tonight seeking your support for the annexation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. This annexation provides standardized training throughout the area and will enhance firefighter safety.

When I arrived at RHFD, I was put through a 10 day academy. This academy was not like most academies that other agencies provide their new firefighters. It consisted of many hours of training while continuing to provide the citizens with the services that they expect from us every day. In an academy format, a subject topic could take a full week of learning and practice. Due to the 10 day academy, that same topic would only be given a couple hours so that we could move on to the next topic. I would like to thank everyone at the department that took the time to help train me to be successful at RHFD. We had a lot of long days and nights to ensure that I was able to get all my training completed in the 10 days prior to being assigned to my crew. I still work hard and train every day to be the firefighter the residents expect me to be.

As a firefighter, we are called into action when our citizens need us most. These incidents include medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, structure fires, vegetation fires, etc. There is a training division at Contra Costa Fire that ensures that everyone within the department is trained to the same standard. The academy allows the firefighters to focus on the task and skills that they will continue to use and rely on throughout our career without the distraction of running calls. With so many agencies located here in West County, we do not have the same training or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) when it comes to such incidents. This has been found to cause firefighters to pass in the line of duty. People often tell me they couldn't perform the work we do because they couldn't run into a burning building. I am able to do these tasks that I am called to do because I trust the men and women that I work alongside. The annexation will help to have more departments working with the same Standard Operating Procedures and training, making it safer for the residents and firefighters.

In closing, I am a normal person just like every one of you. I have a wife and daughter at home and we expecting our second daughter in the coming months. I support this annexation with Contra Costa Fire because it provide a better service for the residents of Rodeo and Hercules and enhances firefighter safety.

Thank you,

Carlo Granzella