From: Jason Garry
To: Bryan Craig; Kimberly Corcoran
Subject: COORESPONDENCE TO RHFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 4:08:53 PM

Good Evening Chair, Board and community members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Jason Garry. I am a Probationary Firefighter with the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. Tonight, I'm speaking to you and asking for your support of the annexation with Contra Costa Fire.

I was hired here with limited Firefighting experience. I came into this department with an ambition to learn and become a professional firefighter. Initially, my experience here was different than I had envisioned. When compared to many of the larger departments that have the resources to put on an 18 week, standardized academy RHFD was a very different experience. It was difficult for me to learn in an environment with many inconsistencies and then be evaluated in the same manner.

At Contra Costa Fire there is an entire division dedicated to training. With a standardized approach this would greatly improve the competencies of our entry level Firefighters and properly prepare them for working in their role as a Firefighter. Additionally, annexation would provide the necessary in-depth training for future new hires with limited experience in being better equipped and trained to mitigate the many situations that we are tasked with on a daily basis.

My experience here at RHFD has been very positive since I have been assigned to my now permanent crew. The expectations were clearly explained to me and I have since been a contributing member on my shift. In my situation during my training I was able to adapt and be successful, however, I am concerned for those who will be hired after me and would be led to follow in my "footsteps". There is a department next door that is welcoming us with open arms that has a standardized fire academy that would resolve this problem.

In closing I would again stress that in supporting the annexation with Contra Costa Fire it will resolve this issue and many others alike while better serving the citizens of Rodeo, Hercules and our Firefighters alike.

Thank you,
Jason Garry