



TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

October 20, 2023

Chief Patrick J. Kennedy
Fire Rescue Administrator
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
405 Pike Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Dear Chief Kennedy:

I hope this letter finds you well. In the spirit of continuing our long-standing partnership, I'd like to discuss an opportunity that I believe would be mutually-beneficial.

As the Town implements the Jupiter Fire Rescue Department (JFRD), it is fortunate to have options with respect to available land to locate stations. We are pursuing those plans and intend to build a JFRD station on existing Town land to serve the eastern corridor of Jupiter. However, it is the Town's view that the taxpayers of Palm Beach County would not be well-served with two stations in such close proximity to each other. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Station 18, located in Burt Reynold's Park, therefore, presents a unique opportunity for both the County and the Town.

A few points of data to consider:

- Station 18 has averaged 2,921 calls per year over the past 3 years (2020-2022). Of those, an average of 2,291 calls per year are to incorporated Jupiter locations. When JFRD begins service, those calls to incorporated Jupiter will no longer be served by Station 18, leaving it with an average of 497 calls per year. That equates to only 1.36 calls per day (on average).
- According to the budget documents provided by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR) associated with the interlocal agreement between the Town and PBCFR, the estimated annual cost to operate and maintain Station 18 in FY2023 was approximately \$1,000,000. The average cost per call today, using the average call volume above, is estimated at \$342. When JFRD is in service, that average cost per call will increase to an estimated \$2,012.
- The value of Station 18, based on amortization schedules as reported by Palm Beach County, is \$1,080,669.68.

- Call data shows that PBCFR is currently running a significant number of calls in unincorporated areas in and around Jupiter, especially on the west side of town. Discussions with PBCFR Administration during our negotiations indicated that PBCFR may be considering constructing new stations in some of those areas, increasing their capital requirements in the coming years.

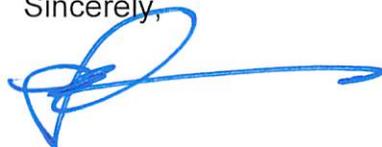
Given the reduced call volume, and the fact that the costs of maintaining and operating Station 18 may not be sustainable for PBCFR, the Town of Jupiter proposes that:

- Palm Beach County enter into a long-term lease with the Town to assume the operation of Station 18.
- The Town would be willing to take on the costs associated with operating, maintaining and improving Station 18. By no longer incurring the expenses to operate Station 18, we estimate that PBCFR's operating dollars would reduce by approximately \$1,000,000 per year. Additionally, depending on capital improvement plans, PBCFR's capital expenditures associated with Station 18 may be reduced.
- In addition to a reduction in operating and capital expenditures, PBCFR would increase its revenues through lease payments from the Town. This new revenue stream could fund a portion or all of a new station in the unincorporated areas of northern Palm Beach County.

Residents in northern Palm Beach County, who will be served in the future by both JFRD and PBCFR, deserve to have their tax dollars used wisely and efficiently. I believe the conceptual proposal outlined above could provide several benefits to PBCFR, in terms of level of service and fiscal responsibility.

As we implement the JFRD and continue this transition, it is my hope that our relationship can evolve to become a partnership between two excellence-driven agencies working side-by-side to serve the public in the Jupiter area. I look forward to working together to ensure a safe and orderly transition from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue to the Jupiter Fire Rescue Department by September 30, 2026. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss the details of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Kitzerow
Town Manager