



CHARLOTTE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Manager Jones, Mayor Lyles, Charlotte City Council,

The Charlotte Firefighters Association Local 660 is requesting your immediate assistance in helping the members of the Charlotte Fire Department. Over the past 2 weeks, there has been a significant increase in positive Covid cases and therefore causing more quarantines among the Fire Department. The Federal Government knew the increase in Covid cases would strain local entities and passed the CARES Act in March of 2020. This allowed members of the Fire Department that were exposed of COVID on the job to quarantine without using their own personal sick time. That allotted time ended in June.

Now, we are being quarantined again and this time the burden is being passed on to us, the frontline workers. Firefighters do not have the luxury to work from home if they are quarantined or sick. Firefighters are losing their nights, weekends and holidays by mandatory overtime. (Canceling Kelly Numbers) For the last 18 months, firefighters have been on the forefront of this pandemic and are putting their own health, and the health and safety of their families on the line to protect the citizens of Charlotte. We have sacrificed time and time again. It is now time for the Manager, Mayor, and Council to step up and protect the firefighters. Currently:

- Quarantines happen to members when they have been exposed to a Patient or other member that is positive.
- Vaccinated members do not have to quarantine when exposed unless they exhibit symptoms.
- About half of the current Covid positive members that are in quarantine have been fully vaccinated.
- More members have been put in quarantine the first two days of August then all of June combined.
- Currently the number of members in quarantine resemble the same numbers of this past March.
- One quarantine period of 7 days can cost a member up to 6 sick days. (Six 12-hour days) – This is more than ½ of yearly accrual
- A new recruit may lose all their sick time with one quarantine.
- There are many members of the department that have been quarantined multiple times.
- A real fear of firefighters would not report being sick because of the lack of sick time available to them.

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We are asking that the City of Charlotte *immediately* institute a program that any firefighter that must quarantine or isolate because of an on-duty exposure not be charged any personal sick time. If a member is tests positive for Covid, the City of Charlotte would not charge them any sick time until Worker's Compensation begins. For each case, with a quarantine or isolation, there is a maximum of six 12-hour days that would be covered by the city. If it can be determined that a member was exposed to Covid and needs to quarantine because of an off-duty exposure, then they would be responsible for the sick time that is used.

We need to Mayor and City Council to implement this immediately because every day more and more firefighters are being put in quarantine. We need you to protect the frontline workers that have been dealing with this pandemic for the last 18 months.

Respectfully Submitted.

CFFA Local 660 Executive Board

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