



## CORRECTION TO FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE CALL DATA

June 8, 2023

During a presentation about a Fire Department Needs Assessment at the Orono City Council meeting on May 22, 2023, information was provided by James Van Eyll regarding response times to emergencies by members of the Long Lake Fire Department (LLFD). The discussion centered around the first bullet in this slide during the presentation:

### Emergency Response - Organizational Structure

#### Why Firefighter Duty Crews-

- ▶ Station 2 Weekday/Daytime response is 16:00 and Station 1 Weekday/Daytime response is 13:49
- ▶ Orono is a Suburban Demand Zone - Station 2's area predominately urban



Later in the meeting comments were made by Mayor Walsh in which he referred to someone having a medical emergency and how “I don’t want to wait 20 minutes, I want that 6-minute response time because 16 minutes is not good enough.” Most of the Long Lake City Council and many LLFD firefighters were present during the presentation and subsequent comments and were immediately taken aback by the inaccurate times that were presented. Although both a former LLFD Fire Chief and a current Deputy Chief spoke during the meeting to try to address the misinformation, the City of Long Lake believes it is necessary to follow up and provide accurate information to calm unnecessary fears that were created during Orono’s meeting.

During his time with the LLFD, Mr. Van Eyll presented annual reports to both the Long Lake and Orono City Councils. His annual report data from 2015-2021, as well as data from 2022, show that the average first unit-on-scene arrival times for both emergency and non-emergency calls in Orono is 8:36 (8 minutes and 36 seconds). This is compared to the 16:00 (Station 2) and 13:49 (Station 1) *emergency* response times noted in the slide above. Factual average *emergency-only* response times are displayed in the table below and are *significantly* lower than the times provided by Orono.

In addition, current LLFD leadership, in collaboration with our City Council, has further analyzed data regarding Station 1 and 2 emergency responses in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of response times. The table below compares the response times claimed by Mr.

Van Eyll and the emergency scenario described by Mayor Walsh. We have analyzed eleven years of data to ensure statistical significance.

<b>EMERGENCY CALLS IN THE CITY OF ORONO WEEKDAYS/DAYTIME (06:00 A.M. TO 5:59 P.M.)</b>		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Claim (minutes)</b>	<b>Factual (minutes)*</b>
Station 1 Calls	13:49	<b>7:09</b>
Station 2 Calls	16:00	<b>8:47</b>
Both Stations/All Call	N/A	<b>7:38</b>

\*The factual times above are based on the average time for the first arriving unit to arrive at the incident address. Time data in both columns do *not* include the time it takes the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Division to dispatch calls to fire personnel.

As noted in the table above, the claimed response times by the City of Orono are significantly higher than the factual response times acquired from the ImageTrend system, which is used to track LLFD response data. Although it's unclear why such highly inflated response times were presented during a meeting about the Orono City Council's perceived need to create its own fire department, what is clear is that members of the LLFD, which is comprised of residents of Orono, Long Lake, and surrounding cities, work extremely hard 24/7 to respond on a moment's notice to provide emergency responses to all of our communities. The City of Long Lake would like to thank our firefighters for their dedicated service while also ensuring that accurate information is being provided regarding the tremendous work they do.