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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Long Lake Seeks Court Order to Stop Orono from Violating Fire Services Contract and Interfering with Emergency Services

LONG LAKE, Minnesota (June 23, 2023) – The City of Long Lake filed suit today in Hennepin County District Court against the City of Orono. The lawsuit requests that the Court grant a preliminary injunction protecting the century-old Long Lake Fire Department from a series of actions by Orono that are interfering with the department's ability to provide emergency services for Long Lake, Orono, Minnetonka Beach and Medina.

Long Lake's lawsuit states that the city is seeking relief to "stop Orono's concerted and blatant violations of a written Contract for Fire Protection and a Contract for Joint Ownership" of the Long Lake Fire Department. The complaint argues that since September 2022, "Orono has systematically undermined Long Lake's ability to meet its contractual obligations to furnish all firefighting services, rescue and medical services, and manage the ongoing operation" of the Long Lake Fire Department.

"Orono has taken a series of hostile actions with the combined effect of attempting to dismantle the Long Lake Fire Department and gain control of at least one of our fire stations," said Long Lake Mayor Charlie Miner. The mayor detailed a series of hostile actions by Orono in an affidavit that accompanies the lawsuit, including:

- Orono's October 2022 purchase of a fire truck that Long Lake Fire Department was actively considering acquiring.
- Orono's hiring of the Long Lake Fire Chief to lead a non-existent fire department.
- Orono's attempt to get state legislators to move control of Long Lake Fire Department firefighters' pensions to the City of Orono.
- Orono council members publicly stating they are "prepared to take all of Long Lake's firefighters."
- Orono's long-time refusal to increase capital budgets or future shared equipment purchases jeopardizing the Long Lake Fire Department's ability to fix, replace or buy critical equipment and tools.

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Long Lake is asking the Court to specifically prohibit Orono from soliciting Long Lake firefighters to work for the Orono Fire Department or interfering with the work of Long Lake firefighters. The mayor's affidavit states "If Orono attempts to take control of either of Long Lake Fire Department stations, it will directly impede the department's ability to render fire protection and emergency services that Long Lake is obligated to provide pursuant to both the Contract for Fire Protection between Long Lake, Orono and Media, as well as the Fire Protection Contract between Long Lake and Minnetonka Beach."

The City of Long Lake requested an emergency assignment for a judge to hear the request for a preliminary injunction. The city expects a hearing to occur within the next two weeks.

For more information:

https://www.longlakemn.gov/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={5B5C1949-9D02-4B64-B700-FD2974B710B0}

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