

RESOLUTION of the DMA Fire Chiefs

November 15, 2017

MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO RECOMMEND INCREASING DMA DUES

- WHEREAS, the current Downriver Mutual Aid Fire services response teams consisting of hazardous materials, fire investigation, dive and logistics, struggle with participation and team coverage as well as adequate response capabilities. Equipment, team staffing optimization and training standards are in need of improvement to raise the level of standards to improve adequate and safe response mitigation to emergency situations throughout the Downriver region. Currently not all communities within the Downriver Mutual Aid Fire Services division have participating members on any of these teams causing a shortage in optimal team staffing levels and response call outs; and
- WHEREAS, DMA is in need of increasing participation to a Level II Response Team for HazMat Standards, so it is important to revamp everything to support this Downriver Mutual Aid mechanism to continue operations; and
- WHEREAS, the Fire Chief's have prepared a Team's Concept with funding components, equipment needs, overtime and training level standards needed to ensure safe operations for the entire Downriver area; and
- WHEREAS, the DMA teams have over \$2 million in vehicles stored in the former HQ building in Southgate. This building belongs to Wayne County and they've been moving in other operations so DMA's equipment is no longer secured. In addition, Wayne County may be selling the building, so we have been researching available options in the area. There is no rent at the current building, so anticipated expenses for a new building (i.e. purchase/rent/building a new facility) will be significant. We will need a minimum of 10,000 square foot building to house the DMA equipment. We're looking at an annual operating cost of \$45,000 (utilities/alarms/everything else associated with a building); and
- WHEREAS, the Fire Chief's have identified and anticipate \$523,000.00 is needed for capital needs, plus an annual operating budget and we currently have \$170,000 (annual dues are being collected at \$.18 per capita for the past 40 years), and that is no longer adequate to support the much needed improvements to team level participation, training and equipment needs; and
- WHEREAS, the Fire Chair, Chief Jeff Drouillard, presented the concerns listed above along with detailed spreadsheets to the DMA Board members at a special Work Session held on October 24, 2017, and the consensus was to approve the concept to increase dues – with the fire chiefs providing their Team's Concept of additional needs. Majority vote was to increase DMA assessments by \$7,000 per community, noting that those communities that provide team participation with members will be reimbursed \$45.00/ hr. per member who participates in their respective teams minimum yearly training attendance requirements. Minimum training attendance will be 80% with allowances for excused absences for good cause, however payment return would only be based on verified physical members attendance. Payment reimbursement will be provided on a semi-annual basis after approval by the DMA Fire Services executive board. A community's maximum annual reimbursement shall not be permitted to exceed the \$7,000 annual dues increase amount. Formal vote will take place at the DMA board meeting; and
- WHEREAS, the current Fire dues generate \$91,292.62. With the increase of \$7,000 per community, the total collected would now be \$231,292.62 to support the Fire Teams.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Downriver Mutual Aid (DMA) Fire Chiefs, collectively representing the nineteen Downriver communities (and Wayne County Airport) and approximately 500,000 residents, fully supports and recommends the Downriver Mutual Aid dues be increased to support fire operations as referenced above.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Fire Chair of the Downriver Mutual Aid Fire Chiefs Group certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the DMA Fire Chiefs held on November 15, 2017, and that said resolution has not been rescinded.

Chief Jeff E. Drouillard: 