



City of Tacoma
City Manager

January 9, 2008

Honorable C. Michael J. Transue
Mayor
Town of Ruston
5117 N. Winnifred
Ruston, WA 98407-6597

Dear Mayor Transue:

On May 10, 2007, you received a letter from Fire Chief Ronald Stephens, in which he proposed that the Town of Ruston consider a service agreement to provide the same high quality professional Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) services to all persons and properties within Ruston, at the same level provided to Tacoma and other areas that TFD currently serves. It was TFD's concern at that time that Tacoma was providing automatic aid to Ruston, rather than the mutual aid which was agreed upon in the Pierce County Mutual Aid Agreement, thus creating a financial burden on the City of Tacoma.

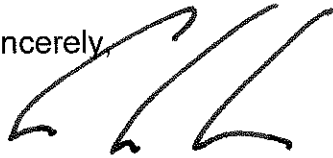
On May 15, 2007, Chief Stephens sent a letter indicating that TFD would make no changes regarding its operational response to Ruston while we waited for the result of the Ruston Town Council's review of the fire service options. On August 13, 2007, Chief Stephens met with you and members of the Ruston Town Council Committee and was informed that Ruston would not enter into a service agreement with Tacoma. On August 15, 2007, at your request, you received a letter from Chief Stephens stating that TFD would continue to honor our Mutual Aid Agreement.

On January 3, 2008, Ruston Town Council Members Stebner and Albertson met with TFD representatives and were told TFD was not prepared to enter into negotiations at this time, primarily because of its priority to achieve accreditation.

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In May 2007, TFD began its process of seeking accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, with a goal for completion at the end of 2009. Part of the process for accreditation is a self-assessment to improve service quality and organizational performance and developing both Strategic and Standards of Response Coverage Plans. Because of the staff resources needed to complete our accreditation process for the next two years, we will not be ready to enter into negotiations for fire and emergency services to Ruston beyond what we have agreed to in the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E.A. Anderson', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Eric A. Anderson
City Manager

cc: Ronald W. Stephens, Fire Chief
Tacoma Mayor and City Council Members