To All Hollywood Park Citizens,

The City of San Antonio has presented the Town of Hollywood Park with a proposal for contracting fire service that has been shared with other members of the council. It is important for city councils to extend assiduous attention to all aspects of budgetary items, ensuring due diligence is performed to affirm an informed decision is made for the city's future. Periodically these evaluations present unrest and discord. The evaluation of fire service for the Town of Hollywood Park is meant to discuss our options and ensure we are being the most prudent with the safety and financial status of the Town. These have not been ongoing talks, only a presentation of what the City of San Antonio has prepared to offer the Town of Hollywood Park. There are a number of the facts and considerations as the Town of Hollywood Park moves forward.

Hollywood Park's Fire Department has long been an asset to this community. By foregoing the contract, the Town can maintain one level of independence from San Antonio by not connecting with them through First Responders for Fire protection. This will allow Hollywood Park to continue with its tradition from its early beginnings, as the Fire Department was part of the original reason for incorporating. The Fire Department has long been a part of the community the residents have enjoyed; we all know and have become close to our firefighters. The fact that Hollywood Park has its own fire department has been a selling point for the community and many of the Realtors who show homes in Hollywood Park. The reasons to continue our independent fire department run deep in our hearts and minds.

The main reasons for contracting with San Antonio Fire Department would be based on fiscal calculations. This year, the budget for the HPFDwas $1,085,908. By contracting with the SAFD, the cost would reduce to $602,000. This cost includes a fire engine, 24 hour personnel, and a "peak call time" ambulance stationed in the current Hollywood Park Fire Department location. The first response fleet for residential fire calls would increase to two engines, one ladder truck, an ambulance, and a command vehicle. The overall rating for the SAFD would result in a higher fire rating for Hollywood Park. SAFD ambulance service would be provided offering lower rates than are currently offered by Acadian combined with a higher rating (a high percentage of SAFD ambulances are rated as a mobile ICU Unit). This also removes the cost of a new ladder truck that is essential to ensure the HPFD continues to meet standards. This option reduces Hollywood Park's liability for the increasing cost of personnel medical insurance and retirement. The expense reduction to the Town of Hollywood Park could potentially be reallocated toward funding the street and drainage projects that are needed around the Town.

The reasons for keeping the Hollywood Park Fire Department the way it is are very important and not the type of reasons that can be placed in a line item on a spreadsheet. The reasons to contract with SAFD are primarily founded on fiscal reasoning. In my professional life, I have always looked at every aspect to be sure that it is being handled and managed in the best way possible. What I ask of our City Council and residents is for you take the time to look at the benefits and disadvantages of both options and have a logical discussion on whether or not we should continue with the status quo. Any action to change the current Fire Department structure would be a City Council vote in open session, with ample time for citizen comments

Respectfully,

Chris Fails

Mayor

Town of Hollywood Park