



Debbie Brinkman

Mayor, City of Littleton
2255 W. Berry Ave., Littleton, CO 80120

Dear Mayor Brinkman,

We understand that the City of Littleton is considering joining its partners – Highlands Ranch Metro District (HRMD) and Littleton Fire Protection District (LFPD) – in consolidation of fire and EMS services with South Metro Fire Rescue.

As your firefighters, we have a vested interest in the outcome of the future of our fire department and believe it's in the best interest of the City of Littleton to join its partners in this unification for Jan. 1st, 2019. We certainly want the very best when it comes to service to the citizens of Littleton, which is why you have the full support from the Littleton Professional Firefighters, Local 2086, to move forward with unifying with South Metro.

By unifying with South Metro, this would allow us to:

- **Increase the service and safety to citizens:** We can substantially improve the delivery of our fire and medical services with more resources; have better operational efficiency; and cut our response times. Right now, Littleton Fire Rescue is not an accredited agency and South Metro is. With unification, we would be able to get up to these national standards and reduce the time it takes to respond to emergency calls when our citizens dial 911.
- **Increase our overall firefighter safety:** Currently, Littleton Fire Rescue does not have enough resources if multiple major events happen at the same time – which is a significant risk. We are already heading in the right direction with common dispatching, and full unification would help to significantly increase our safety when it comes to coverage gaps and more support on for multi-agency and complex calls. Currently resources are also shared between partners (including moving apparatus and resources around the district to meet the needs of our citizens). This would not be the case moving forward if we do not consolidate – we would have much more limited resources to effectively serve the community and thus also increase risks to our firefighters.
- **Have better sustainability:** As our community grows, we need to ensure that we can provide economies of scale to keep up with the increasing demands. We have been able to provide services the way we have because of the partnership model that we've been operating under for decades. Littleton Fire Rescue's full district currently has 9 stations with only 2 in the city proper. As a standalone agency, we would have to go to a 3-4 station model and the probability of costs increasing is very likely – for businesses and taxpayers. This would be difficult to sustain. It's clear that a standalone model will not work long term when you consider the fiscal concerns for the City of Littleton. Consolidating costs, while increasing services, provides a significant level of fiduciary integrity to taxpayer's money.



It's clear that aligning with our current HRMD and LFPD partners and unifying with South Metro will increase our service model and give all citizens more fire and medical resources. This makes the most sense and is the best option for a seamless transition for our community.

We appreciate the immense amount of due diligence that has been done thus far in these discussions, and we strongly encourage Littleton City Council to thoughtfully consider the benefits of unifying with South Metro as it will help increase public safety for our citizens and the safety of our firefighters. We are at a critical time and delaying this decision any further will only negatively impact and hurt your firefighters and your citizens, as well as further strain a system that is unable to sustain its fire services long term within the fiscal limitations that the City of Littleton has been presented.

As your firefighters, we believe in this unification and that it will have a positive impact on the community, help us be fiscally responsible and cost efficient for our future, and will be best for us and our citizens moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joel Heinemann
President L-2086
Littleton Firefighters Association