

Michael Podzaline, Chairman  
Town of Brooklyn  
Fire Commissioners  
27 White Brook Drive  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

November 28, 2022

Austin Tanner  
First Selectman  
Town of Brooklyn  
4 Wolf Den Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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Michael Podzaline, Chairman  
TOWN OF BROOKLYN, CT

Dear Mr. Tanner,

I understand that at the Board of Selectman's meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening, November 29th, 2022, it is on the agenda to appoint a member of the East Brooklyn Fire Department to the Board of Fire Commissioners to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Patrick Gauthier.

This resignation occurred due to a recognizable conflict of interest created by the ongoing lawsuit between the Brooklyn Fire District and East Brooklyn Fire Department (plaintiffs) vs. the Town of Brooklyn (defendant). With that, the current Board of Fire Commissioners feels that ANY member of the East Brooklyn Fire Department appointed to the Board of Fire Commissioners would also create an ethical conflict of interest situation.

Town ordinance states that the East Brooklyn Fire Department is entitled to a representative on the Board of Fire Commissioners. Suppose the Board of Selectman intends to uphold the town's ordinance in appointing an East Brooklyn Fire Department representative to the Board of Fire Commissioners. In that case, it will behoove that individual to abstain from any commission votes related to financial impacts or uses of town-granted funds. As the lawsuit stands, that individual would be a plaintiff and a defendant in a case in which their impartialness can be questioned as a member of an organization that stands to gain from any judgment in its favor.

To conclude, we, the board, are entrusted to the public. Therefore, the Board of Fire Commissioners will adhere to the standards set forth within the town's Ethics Board mission statement.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Podzaline, Chairman  
Town of Brooklyn  
Fire Commissioners

## Melissa Bradley

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**From:** Austin Tanner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:16 AM  
**To:** Melissa Bradley  
**Subject:** FW: BOFC

-----Original Message-----

**From:** BRIAN PEPIN <bpep33@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2022 5:42 PM  
**To:** Austin Tanner <A.Tanner@Brooklynct.org>  
**Subject:** BOFC

Good evening,

With the vacancy for representation of the East Brooklyn Fire Department, I am submitting 3 names. All 3 are strong and dedicated members of this department. Our recommendation to represent the East Brooklyn Fire Department is David Costa due to his firefighting and business background. We have no doubt he will uphold the duties of a Fire Commissioner. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

David Costa  
Nicolas Provost  
Megan Donahue

Brian M. Pepin - Fire Chief  
East Brooklyn Fire Department

# MORTLAKE FIRE COMPANY

November 23, 2022

To Whom it may concern, Mortlake Fire Company recommends appointing Leo Berube, Lou Brodeur and Mark Spellmon to the Board of Commissioners.

Thank you,



Stephen Breen

Chief

Mortlake Fire Company