

To the Board of Fire Commissioners and the residents of Brooklyn,

I would like to clear up some miscommunication and misunderstandings. Before I begin, I would like to reiterate a few things. Chief Pepin and myself chose to step into our respective positions. We did so because we recognized an extreme need for change, in the interest of better serving our constituents. The misguided onslaught of ridicule we have gone through has been nothing short of completely defeating and disheartening. We did not cause the issues that are so publicly blasted all over social media. We have spent the last year plus working out every single detail. Chief Pepin has corrected decades of bad blood and animosity between Mortlake and East Brooklyn Fire. I feel I can speak for both departments when I say this town is stronger and safer than ever. We have built seamless interoperability, and transparency. These efforts are being foreshadowed by the previous statement of misguided information.

Now to address the question of what does the Brooklyn Fire District do for the East Brooklyn Fire Department. To make this simple, the District is the landlord and the Department is the tenant, with no utilities included. The District finances are allocated to specific line items in accordance with the By-Laws and SOG's. There is a copy of said SOG's attached to this letter. They are as follows; (reference the SOG's). The money currently in the District account reflects a total of \$83,500 allocated to capital projects. These projects include updated plumbing for when city water is brought in, the addition of a day room/ lounge area, and potential driveway work after the city water is brought in. The District also maintains money for allocation to the Department in the case of emergencies in accordance with the By-Laws.

We, the District and Department, have begun working on separating the 2 entities. This has been happening for months now. But this could not and will not be done until this lawsuit has been settled and cleared up. We have completed a forensic audit of the books for the District and Department going back as far as 3 years. We wanted this to be done to continue on the path of transparency. The cover letter is provided.

And on the topic of transparency, I would like to publicly request that the following issue be referred to the Town ethics committee. Sandy Brodeur is the chair of the Board of Finance, but yet is the treasurer of the Mortlake Fire Company. This is a conflict of interest due to the fact the budget that she has influence on creating as the treasurer, is then voted on by the committee she leads as the head of the Board of Finance. Our opinion is that it is unethical to have that much control over one's budget that very rarely gets scrutinized by the same committee she is the lead chair. I would also like to request the balances of all the accounts related to Mortlake, as I've been informed there is money in access to 1 million dollars in their accounts. I bring this up in the interest of full transparency between both departments as we work towards our own goals of integrating.

I hope this clarifies the question that have been raised, and I encourage anyone with questions to reach out to me directly. In the very near future, with guidance from council, we may be making a full disclosure public statement regarding the lawsuit and all other questions that have been raised in the last year.

Thank you for your time, attention, and dedication to the Town of Brooklyn



Nicholas Provost

President, Brooklyn Fire District