

To: President Jeff Pegg & DFFA Local 344

From: John K. King, Chief of Department – Fire Operations

Date: September 2, 2015

**RE: REPRESENTATION**

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I have been a member of L-344 for over 32 years, an elected Executive Board Member and a staunch Union advocate. I have held two of the three highest positions inside Local 344's membership. Having said that, I'm not sure if you understand, by virtue of your position as President, you represent all DFFA members.

Two years ago, in the mist of bankruptcy, the City focus through Jones-Day, was to reduce every aspect of this department and some of us, including the then Chief of Department and both Deputies were trying to stabilize our ranks with 52 companies; are Union's plan, led by you, called for a reduction to 48 companies.

When the City of Detroit and Highland Park, embarked on a mutually based training for EMT certification, a plan that would allow 2 ½ times the number personnel to benefit, you shot down. Now less than 200 Fire personnel will take the class without any certainty of passing and get paid for it, instead of 440. By the way, speaking of EMT class, how is that working out for you? In class, not in the Fire station or Union office.

I have in the past looked beyond some of the inconsistencies you have shown towards our members and this office, but the news report done on September 1, 2015 was disrespectful and an insult to all dues paying members of this Union. You embarrassed the City of Detroit, The Detroit Fire Department and my Union. For you in your capacity, to go on camera and criticize actions of other members without any attempt to find out the other side, let alone the facts, including the ones **YOU KNEW** were false before the news cast, showed a total disregard for the position you were elected to serve.

I have put out more fires (figuratively and literally) than you will ever. My job, has always been to solve problems and find success where sometimes there is little hope; that should be your mantra. My peers, **your members** have never had anyone fight harder for them, than this Chief of Department. Mayor Duggan and Commissioner Jenkins, have allowed me to serve, and not once do I believed they wanted to harm this Fire Department, or it's personnel; that's why I'm still here. **Will you be able to make that same statement a year from now?**