

Young, Shaneka

From: Evelyn Casey [ecasey7@datasystems-fl.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 3:14 PM
To: Hanrahan, Pegeen; Hawkins, Jr., Thomas; Mastrodicasa, Jeanna; Henry, Scherwin L.; Poe, Lauren B.; Donovan, John F. - Commissioner; Lowe, Craig; bocc@alachuacounty.us
Subject: fire assessment fee

Dear City and County Commissioners:

I have an idea to present, in case it has not already been considered. My idea is based on the fact that I believe that a sales tax increase is a more equitable way to raise money for fire assessment needs. Property owners are not the only ones who benefit from fire protection services. All people who live here or visit here benefit from these services.

After talking to city and county attorneys, I learned that only the county can call for a Referendum to increase the sales tax and that this money can only be used for infrastructurein this case, for fire stations, fire trucks and equipment. If this were done, the amount needed from property taxes could be reduced to an amount to cover fire personnel salaries.

Knowing that the fire assessment issue has been under discussion for quite a while I apologize for not sending this to you sooner.

I am greatly appreciative for all your hard work in trying to resolve this and many other issues. I will appreciate your consideration of this idea.

Gratefully,
Evelyn S. Casey
2811 N.W. 12th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32605
352 373-2943

The proposed assessment rates are based on an evaluation of fire services by Gainesville Fire Rescue to properties in Gainesville. Therefore the cost of providing services is that in Gainesville, not nationally. Also, the data used to determine the costs comes from the 2006-2007 fiscal year. I do not believe that year shows an abnormal number of calls for any particular property category, including institutional. I have attached a copy of the consultant's memorandum summarizing her calculations and conclusions for your review.

My biggest concern with the fire assessment proposal, to this point, is that we are asking citizens and non-profits to pay for their own services but will continue to ask our taxpayers to subsidize service to government buildings. That does not move us towards a more equitable system of funding services.

Please feel free to call me here, or on my cell phone at 562-2888, if you would like to talk about the fire assessment. I value your opinion.

Thomas

Thomas Hawkins, Commissioner-At-Large
City of Gainesville, Office of the City Commission
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32602-0490
Phone: (352) 334-5015
Fax: (352) 334-2036
commth@cityofgainesville.org

From: Larry Reimer [mailto:larryr@ucgainesville.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 2:52 PM
To: citycomm
Cc: Cindy and Tim Martin
Subject: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Dear Commissioners,

If the commission must enact the fire protection fee on non-profits, it is excessive to enact a fee on churches three times that of industrial sites and 50% more than commercial buildings. I understand that this fee scale is based on a national assessment of fire response frequency. But it's not at all clear that this reflects the reality for churches in Gainesville. Neither does it reflect the in kind services religious organizations supply the community. We are called to do more and more as public funds dwindle. In terms of housing the homeless through IHN, offering space in our buildings for community groups, and supporting the work of groups like St. Francis House and Gainesville Community Ministries.

I know the city is pressed for money, but so are the churches. I am willing to support a fair share, equal to the fee charged commercial buildings.

I hope someone on the commission will stand up to amend the proposed rate structure. Members of my church and I will be at the meeting on July 16 to argue for this change.

Thank you.

Larry Reimer
United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5 Ave.,
Gainesville, FL 32603
352-378-3500
www.ucgainesville.org

7/16/2008

Young, Shaneka

From: Skell, Rosemary A.
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 10:58 AM
To: citycomm
Subject: Fire Assessment Questions

Attachments: 20080711094210426.pdf



2008071109421042
6.pdf (96 KB)

Commissioner Donovan:

Attached please find a memorandum from Assistant City Manager regarding the above-referenced subject. Thank you.

Rosemary Skell
Administrative Assistant to the City Manager



INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: July 11, 2008
TO: Commissioner Donovan
VIA: Russ Blackburn, City Manager
FROM: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager PF
SUBJECT: Fire Assessment Questions

You posed a number of questions regarding the proposed Special Assessment for Fire Services. Please see the questions and responses below.

1. Who/what is the organization that calculated our rates per business, institution, and residence?

Government Services Group, Inc. is the City consultant who performed the Fire Assessment Study. They have extensive experience and expertise and have performed similar studies for many other local governments in Florida. The full consultant report is available on the City's web site.

2. Were the calculations specific to Gainesville properties and fire service delivery records (calls, etc)?

Government Services Group, Inc. used a proven methodology to perform the Fire Assessment Study and develop the assessment rates. The methodology depends upon data specific to a jurisdiction. The calculations are specific to the City of Gainesville and are based on City and County Property Appraiser data. This includes Gainesville Fire Rescue budget data, call data, etc. and property data maintained by the Property Appraiser allows categorization by property type and calculation of the fire assessment for each property.

3. Why are institutions charged a higher rate than businesses?

When calculating a special assessment for fire services, a formula is used that involves a calculation of the percent of fire service calls related to the property type. A different assessment amount is calculated for each property type based on Gainesville's fire response history. This calculation ensures that all properties of the same type are charged at the same rate for fire services. The data and calculations resulted in an institutional rate that is higher than the commercial rate. To achieve fair apportionment of fire service costs, properties in each category must be assessed their proportional cost.

Office of the Assistant City Manager
P.O. Box 490, Station 6
Gainesville, FL 32602-0490
(352) 334-5010 – (352) 334-3119-fax

4. Shouldn't places of religious assembly be charged at lower rates than other institutions or businesses given that they are subject to less intense use?

The proven methodology utilizes existing classifications of property type. This classification includes places of religious assembly in the institutional property category. The City had the consultant look at the impact of removing University of Florida owned properties from the calculations. If this was done it would result in a significantly higher rate for institutional property. Although, there are many calls for service to the University, the sheer size and amount of square footage of University property results in a lower overall institutional rate.

5. What period of time was included in the fire services assessment study? Was the unusual spate of fires set by a homeless arsonist back in the early '90s taken into account one way or another?

The consultant used the fire incident response data from fiscal year 2006-2007.

The City has posted extensive fire assessment information on the City web site at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/webportal/portals/mco/docs/FireAssessment.html>. Please let me know if there are other questions we may address.

Cc: City Commission
Bill Northcutt, Fire Chief
Becky Rountree, Administrative Services Director
Liz Waratuke, Litigation Attorney

Young, Shaneka

From: Brown, Neomia B.
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 9:10 AM
To: citycomm
Cc: citymgr
Subject: FW: Villas at 39th LLC letter from Howard K. Wallace, Jr. - re: Fire Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

Attachments: 22270.pdf



22270.pdf (54 KB)

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

From: service2@ci.gainesville.fl.us [mailto:service2@ci.gainesville.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 9:24 AM
To: Brown, Neomia B.
Subject: Villas at 39th LLC letter from Howard K. Wallace, Jr. - re: Fire Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

This is image data from the scanner.

Young, Shaneka

From: Brown, Neomia B.
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 8:59 AM
To: citycomm
Cc: citymgr
Subject: FW: F & G Land Company, Inc. letter from Michael Gravois - re: Eleven Tax Parcels for Fire Service Assessments

Attachments: 22264.pdf



22264.pdf (168 KB)

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

From: service2@ci.gainesville.fl.us [mailto:service2@ci.gainesville.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 9:08 AM
To: Brown, Neomia B.
Subject: F & G Land Company, Inc. letter - re: Eleven Tax Parcels for Fire Service Assessments

This is image data from the scanner.



F & G Land Company, INC GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION

1320 NW 3rd Ave #206

Gainesville, FL 32603

(352) 375-8256 Fax (352) 337-0069

2008 JUL 10 PM 3:40

July 7, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Tax Parcel 13167-000-000

The business I own and manage consists of a variety of apartments and single-family homes that I rent primarily to college students. In recent years, tremendous increases in the cost of insurance, maintenance, and property taxes have caused these rentals to yield less and less profit each year. Obviously, part of the reason that my business pays such heavy property taxes is that property tax revenue from only 46% of the properties in Gainesville must generate 100% of the needed tax revenue. This 46% figure comes from the letter sent to me regarding this special assessment ("Over 54% of City property values are off the tax role").

I fully understand and appreciate the need for excellent fire services within the community. Gainesville Fire Rescue has responded to several calls at our properties and has always done so promptly and professionally. I also understand that the provision of fire services is extremely expensive. I do not understand, however, why any parcel eligible for fire services should be exempt from paying for these services, particularly if a lack of funding for these services has created a need for a special assessment on those currently paying for these services.

I therefore strongly object to being charged this special assessment. If additional funding is needed, it is only fair that those property owners currently benefiting from, but not paying for fire protection services pay it. I will be attending the City Commission public hearing on Wednesday, July 16 to voice these objections to the city commission.

Thanks,

Michael Gravois
President F&G Land Company

Young, Shaneka

From: Radson, Marion J.
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 3:26 PM
To: Hanrahan, Pegeen
Cc: Folkers, Paul E.
Subject: RE: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Pegeen,
Liz Waratuke, who is assigned to this matter, has researched this matter thoroughly and will schedule a meeting with you to brief you in depth.

Marion J. Radson
City Attorney
City of Gainesville
(352) 334-5011
Fax (352) 334-2229

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

NOTICE: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, then delete it. Thank you.

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

From: Hanrahan, Pegeen
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 2:22 PM
To: Radson, Marion J.
Cc: Folkers, Paul E.
Subject: FW: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Marion and Paul - As an FYI, I am still hoping to see the opinions of some other cities/counties as to how they have justified exempting non-profits.

Thanks!

Pegeen

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

From: Larry Reimer [mailto:larryr@ucgainesville.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 1:17 PM
To: Hanrahan, Pegeen
Subject: RE: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Hi Pegeen,

Thanks so much for your response. I still think that just because fees can be leveled on churches that they should, and at the very least, given the nature of the services churches provide the community, that we should not be paying three times the level imposed on industry and another 50% above commercial. That's a confusing sentence.

Thanks for your great work as our Mayor. I think you're the greatest, but I hope you'll vote against assessing churches or at least against assessing churches more than commercial.

Larry Reimer
United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5 Ave.,
Gainesville, FL 32603
352-378-3500
www.ucgainesville.org

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

From: Hanrahan, Pegeen [mailto:Hanrahanp@cityofgainesville.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 11:31 AM
To: Larry Reimer; citycomm
Cc: cindyandtim@cox.net
Subject: Re: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Dear Rev. Reimer -

The fees are actually based on a detailed analysis of Gainesville data, not national data. As the press has reported I have asked for copies of the differing legal opinions on including non profits in the fee requirements. I know our city attorney well enough to understand that he doesn't make this recommendation lightly, but I hope to understand it better myself.

Pegeen

Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor
P.O. Box 490-19
Gainesville, Florida 32601-0490
(352) 334-5015
(352) 665-5939 mobile

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

From: Larry Reimer <larryr@ucgainesville.org>
To: citycomm
Cc: Cindy and Tim Martin <cindyandtim@cox.net>
Sent: Wed Jul 09 14:52:14 2008
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Young, Shaneka

From: Andrew, Devonia L.
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 11:33 AM
To: Hanrahan, Pegeen
Subject: SW Business owners letter re: fire service assessment

Attachments: 22247.pdf



22247.pdf (157 KB)

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

From: service2@ci.gainesville.fl.us [mailto:service2@ci.gainesville.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 11:59 AM
To: Andrew, Devonia L.
Subject: Attached image data.

This is image data from the scanner.



CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION

2008 JUL 08 PM 4:17

July 5, 2008

City Commission
200 E. University Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Fire service assessment for parcel # 15504-002-000, 15504-000-000 located at 1900 SW 13th St. Gainesville, FL 32608 and others listed below

This is to inform you that the following parcels located on SW 13th Street have objection to this special fire service assessment fees. We strongly believe that as it is we have higher property taxes in Alachua County and by applying this fire service fee of at least 5-8% of the property taxes makes it very difficult for small businesses like us to survive and especially in this bad economy, we are already suffering. Besides, we do not know how much our property taxes will go up. Combined effect is beyond imagination. We respectfully request the Commission to consider any other ways to compensate for the shortfall of budget for these services.

Parcel #	Property Name	Authorized Signature
15696-002	Comfort Inn	Sanjay Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
15611-2	Econolodge	Amrish Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
15627	Days Inn	Jay Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
15545	Bambi Motel	Hasmukh Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
15680	Florida Motel	Amrat Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
15564	Sands Motel	Bhupendra or Sonal Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
15504-01	ABC Motel	Amil Vishnagar - <i>[Signature]</i>
15504-000/002	Americas Best Value Inn	Sanmukh Patel - <i>[Signature]</i>
(LST) 15696-005-000	Lakeshore Tower	Debra Butler - <i>[Signature]</i>
(vacant lot) 15696-004-001		

1900 S.W. 13th Street • Gainesville, FL 32608

For Reservations Nationwide call: 1-888-315-2378 or 352-372-1880 Fax: 352-335-6862
Website: abvifl.com

Young, Shaneka

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I hope someone on the commission will stand up to amend the proposed rate structure. Members of my church and I will be at the meeting on July 16 to argue for this change.

Thank you.

Larry Reimer

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Gainesville, FL 32603

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Young, Shaneka

From: Larry Reimer [larryr@ucgainesville.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 10:56 AM
To: Hawkins, Jr., Thomas
Subject: RE: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Dear Thomas,

Thanks for such a thorough response. I deeply appreciate this. And I value your work on the commission. The fees I received from the city list industrial at \$.02 per sq. ft., commercial assessment at \$.04 per sq. ft. and institutional which includes us at \$.06. I still hope you will oppose the assessment itself on churches. If that is not possible, I hope that given the churches' commitment of service to the community, you will oppose assessing churches at the highest rate. We have been informed that our assessment will be \$1,300.

Thanks again for your good work.

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From: Hawkins, Jr., Thomas [mailto:hawkinswt@cityofgainesville.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 3:31 PM
To: Larry Reimer
Cc: Andrew, Devonia L.
Subject: RE: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Larry,

Thank you for voicing your input. I do hope you attend on the sixteenth.

The proposed assessment rates are based on an evaluation of fire services by Gainesville Fire Rescue to properties in Gainesville. Therefore the cost of providing services is that in Gainesville, not nationally. Also, the data used to determine the costs comes from the 2006-2007 fiscal year. I do not believe that year shows an abnormal number of calls for any particular property category, including institutional. I have attached a copy of the consultant's memorandum summarizing her calculations and conclusions for your review.

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Thomas

Thomas Hawkins, Commissioner-At-Large
City of Gainesville, Office of the City Commission
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32602-0490
Phone: (352) 334-5015
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7/16/2008

commth@cityofgainesville.org

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7/16/2008

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From: Larry Reimer [larryr@ucgainesville.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 10:56 AM
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Thanks again for your good work.

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From: Poe, Lauren B. [mailto:poel@cityofgainesville.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 3:31 PM
To: Larry Reimer
Cc: Andrew, Devonia L.; Northcutt, William K.
Subject: RE: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Mr. Reimer,

I would like to thank you for contacting me regarding the proposed fire assessment. I assure you that I do not approach this issue lightly and I will strongly consider all input before making my final decision. I will weigh several alternatives to keeping our fire department fully funded, including making drastic budget cuts, raising the millage rate on property owners, and assessing a fire fee for service (so long as it is minimal and includes a sunset clause). I take none of these options lightly, as they all will have serious consequences on all or part of our community.

As for the rate structure, the various rates were determined by utilizing an exhaustive scientific analysis of GFR responses over the course of one year. The study looked at all responses, and eliminated any that did not directly relate to fire services (i.e. no EMT or car accident responses were included). This was used to determine the overall cost of providing fire services to the city (\$7,3342,466). The study then looked at various types of properties and what portion of fire services each property classification utilized. This is how we arrived at the \$99 per residential unit, \$.18/sq. foot for institutional, etc. It is all based on the proportional share of calls GFR answered and dedicated fire services to over the entire year. Churches fall under the institutional category; therefore they would be assessed at a rate of \$.05/sq. foot if the assessment is passed at a 25% rate. I am not sure if I did an adequate job of explaining the methodology of the rate structure, so if you want additional information, I suggest you contact Chief Northcutt (northcutwk@ci.gainesville.fl.us), who is much better at articulating the science behind the process.

Thank you for all that you do for our community. As a former chair of the CACCD, I have seen first-hand the direct impact you and your members make on our city.

Best,
 Lauren

7/16/2008

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Young, Shaneka

From: Andrew, Devonia L.
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 7:39 AM
To: 'Roger Cox'
Cc: citycomm; citymgr
Subject: RE: Special Fire Assessment Fee

Good Morning Mr. Cox,

Your e-mail correspondence has been received by the Mayor and members of the City Commission and it is being shared with the City Manager. Thank you for taking the time to voice your concerns.

Devonia L. Andrew
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

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

From: Roger Cox [mailto:rcflg8tor@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 7:54 PM
To: citycomm
Subject: Special Fire Assessment Fee

I am opposed to the Fire Assessment Fee when it is applied to Churches and other religious houses of worship and when it is applied to Charitable Organizations. The Churches support the Charitable Organizations and the Charitable Organizations support the down and out that the City Commission "says" they are trying to help. I think it will severely cut back the support for the people who really need it. Churches are exempt from property taxes and this "fee" is nothing more than a TAX.

I have heard "yes", "no", "maybe" as to the application to the U of F. They get a free lunch when it comes to other taxes. I don't think they should escape this "fee".

How many other "fees" will be originated???

=====
This message was generated on the City of Gainesville Website.
User Name: Roger Cox
User IP address: 68.228.99.62
Client software: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; U; PPC Mac OS X; en-us) AppleWebKit/85.8.5
(KHTML, like Gecko) Safari/85.8.1

Young, Shaneka

From: Roger Cox [rcflg8tor@cox.net]
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To: citycomm
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(KHTML, like Gecko) Safari/85.8.1

Young, Shaneka

From: Lannon, Kurt M.
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 3:53 PM
To: Poe, Lauren B.; 'daniel daniel'
Cc: Andrew, Devonia L.
Subject: RE: Fire Ass Fee

Yes July 16th at 6:00PM here at City Hall.

KL

From: Poe, Lauren B.
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 2:29 PM
To: 'daniel daniel'
Cc: Andrew, Devonia L.; Lannon, Kurt M.
Subject: RE: Fire Ass Fee

Mr. Daniel

I believe that we will have second reading of the ordinance on July 16th. You can check with Kurt Lannon, the clerk of the commission, to verify this.

LP

From: daniel daniel [mailto:daniel@aldantrading.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 1:40 PM
To: Poe, Lauren B.; citycomm
Cc: 'isaac Daniel'; moshe@aldantrading.com
Subject: RE: Fire Ass Fee

Dear Lauren

First I thank you for replying back.

I am Glad that you do not approach this issue in a lightly manner. However I hope that you can understand the sensitive position property owners are in during this economic situation in the US (I try not to use the word recession but it is the right description of the US market).

I am also aware that the municipal are in bad shape, and that they are hurt from the economy, I see it in other cities in the US as well. But additional fees such as this fire ass fee would only make things more difficult since the city already raised prices to other services that they provide to property owners (such as eviction rates etc...).

Eventually property owners would not be able to bare these increases in prices and additional fees and taxes, and when it will happen it would not help the municipals.

PS

When will you reach a conclusion on this matter?

Best Regards
Daniel Daniel

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

From: Poe, Lauren B. [mailto:poel@cityofgainesville.org]

7/16/2008

Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 1:09 PM
To: daniel daniel
Subject: RE: Fire Ass Fee

Mr. Daniel,
I would like to thank you for contacting me regarding the proposed fire assessment. I assure you that I do not approach this issue lightly and I will strongly consider all input before making my final decision. I will weigh several alternatives to keeping our fire department fully funded, including making drastic budget cuts, raising the millage rate on property owners, and assessing a fire fee for service (so long as it is minimal and includes a sunset clause). I take none of these options lightly, as they all will have serious consequences on all or part of our community.

Best,
Lauren

From: daniel daniel [mailto:daniel@aldantrading.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 12:38 PM
To: citycomm
Cc: 'isaac Daniel'; moshe@aldantrading.com
Subject: Fire Ass Fee

Dear City Commissioners
Ref: Fire Ass Fee; Parcel 06778-000-000 & 06776-000-000

I have Recently Received a letter in the mail regarding a Fire Assessment Fee for my Property. From what I understood there will be a public hearing about this matter on July 16 2008 unfortunately I would not be able to attend this meeting and I would like to speak my voice regarding this matter.

I definitely think that the city of Gainesville and any other city in the U.S should keep a well Maintained Fire Department which should give the best service possible to the city residents.

However in the current real estate market in Florida and slow rental community it is a great burden on Property owners. Noor Group has a 94 Unit complex which mean we will have to pay approximately \$3,000.00, something that we can not offered to pay, with the constant increase in overhead and decrease in Income.

Noor Group has no choice but to object this fee.

PS
Please reply to this e-mail so I will know that it reached the appropriate personal that deals with this matter. And let me know if there is anything else I should do if there is a need to further impose my objection to this fee.

Best Regards
Daniel Daniel

Noor Group LLC
T: 305-624-6623
F: 305-624-7333
E-mail: daniel@aldantrading.com

Young, Shaneka

From: Andrew, Devonia L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 3:33 PM
To: citycomm
Cc: citymgr
Subject: FW: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?
Attachments: fireservicesassessmentmemorandum.pdf

From: Hawkins, Jr., Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 3:26 PM
To: 'Larry Reimer'
Cc: Andrew, Devonia L.
Subject: RE: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Larry,

Thank you for voicing your input. I do hope you attend on the sixteenth.

The proposed assessment rates are based on an evaluation of fire services by Gainesville Fire Rescue to properties in Gainesville. Therefore the cost of providing services is that in Gainesville, not nationally. Also, the data used to determine the costs comes from the 2006-2007 fiscal year. I do not believe that year shows an abnormal number of calls for any particular property category, including institutional. I have attached a copy of the consultant's memorandum summarizing her calculations and conclusions for your review.

My biggest concern with the fire assessment proposal, to this point, is that we are asking citizens and non-profits to pay for their own services but will continue to ask our taxpayers to subsidize service to government buildings. That does not move us towards a more equitable system of funding services.

Please feel free to call me here, or on my cell phone at 562-2888, if you would like to talk about the fire assessment. I value your opinion.

Thomas

Thomas Hawkins, Commissioner-At-Large
City of Gainesville, Office of the City Commission
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32602-0490
Phone: (352) 334-5015
Fax: (352) 334-2036
commth@cityofgainesville.org

From: Larry Reimer [mailto:larryr@ucgainesville.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 2:52 PM
To: citycomm
Cc: Cindy and Tim Martin

7/16/2008

Subject: Fire Protection Fee - Why the highest for churches?

Dear Commissioners,

If the commission must enact the fire protection fee on non-profits, it is excessive to enact a fee on churches three times that of industrial sites and 50% more than commercial buildings. I understand that this fee scale is based on a national assessment of fire response frequency. But it's not at all clear that this reflects the reality for churches in Gainesville. Neither does it reflect the in kind services religious organizations supply the community. We are called to do more and more as public funds dwindle in terms of housing the homeless through IHN, offering space in our buildings for community groups, and supporting the work of groups like St. Francis House and Gainesville Community Ministries.

I know the city is pressed for money, but so are the churches. I am willing to support a fair share, equal to the fee charged commercial buildings.

I hope someone on the commission will stand up to amend the proposed rate structure. Members of my church and I will be at the meeting on July 16 to argue for this change.

Thank you.

Larry Reimer
United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5 Ave.,
Gainesville, FL 32603
352-378-3500
www.ucgainesville.org

7/16/2008

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION

2008 JUL 14 PM 3: 52

935 NE 3RD AV
GAINESVILLE, FLA

32601

JULY 8, 2008

TO:

Mayor Hampton & all
City Commissioners;

I am opposed to a
fire service charge being
added to prop tax for
home owners.

as a single senior
on a small fixed
income this would be
a hardship for me.

The size and value
of property should be
a factor. Why should
I pay the same charge
as someone with the
most expensive property?
Once we are saddle

with the charge it
will continue to
increase yearly.

I greatly respect
our professional
firefighters however
more thought should
be given to search for
a solution for this
fee.

Being older than
all the commissioners
I feel you take too
much for granted. I
worked and saved for
44 years. Taking care
of a beloved parent
with long term illness
years ago it was
very costly. For the past
12 years I have medical
problems with on going
medical expense. I

Can not afford a cell phone, computer, vacations and entertainment as the average teen has.

I live on a tight budget to meet my obligations occasionally doing without. I am blessed and enjoy the simple things in life.

Gamesville is my home. With love and pride I have supported our community financially and with a great deal of volunteering. Please do not take this as boasting, to do so is a sin. I'm trying to make a point in the behalf of other senior friends. We can

-4-

but there is less
we can do now.

Being childless I
pay thru prop tax to
help educate our
children. Perhaps if
those with children
that do not own
property paid something
this tax could be
decrease for ~~services~~
and we could help
with services such
as firemen.

I'm very stressed
over this matter
feel threaten I could
lose my family
home of 15 years.

Respectfully I ask
you to reconsider.

I will continue
to vote, watch city

Comm. meetings and
support my "homework"
whenever and
however I can.
I owe this to our
youth who will be
our leaders.

Gloria Dorsey

I am proud to say
I have two nephews
and a niece who
are firefighters.
(N 9th Myers and Seattle.)

CCOM