



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT



Date: 5/25/2017
 To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
 Via: Anthony Lyons, City Manager *AM*
 Via: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager *PF*
 From: Jeff Lane, Fire Chief *JL*
 Re: Fire Service Assistance Agreement (FSAA)

The County Commission voted 4 -1 to give the required 365-day notice to cancel the FSAA with an effective date of June 1, 2018. The agenda item was taken up at Tuesday's regular Board Meeting where the presentation and discussion took approximately two-hours.

The City and County mutually agreed to amend the FSAA effective October 1, 2015 to support the transition of fire rescue services in SW Gainesville. This included a two-year suspension of FSAA payments which provided a significant financial benefit to the County (at a current estimated value over \$3 Million) to assist the County with the transfer of services. The amendment also includes the transfer of Forest Park to the City effective October 1, 2017.

The proposed cancellation of the FSAA after receiving two-years of service without payment is very concerning but more importantly this action may jeopardize public safety. It certainly reverses long-held commitments by the City and County that the fastest most appropriate response is the standard for fire and EMS delivery regardless of jurisdiction.

By any measure the FSAA model continues to be the most cost effective and efficient means to assure public safety in the urban area. When the agreement ends, it will immediately create significant inefficiencies, delays in service and increased overall costs for both agencies. GFR provides approximately 25% of County fire services in the urban area; therefore the impact of cancelling the FSAA will most directly affect those areas just outside the City.

As requested by the City Manager, we will continue to study the impacts of canceling the FSAA and provide a more detailed report for the City Commission at a later date.