



**Fire Rescue Department**

Chief Gene Prince  
Administration  
352-334-5078  
www.gfr.org

April 4, 2013



Ed Bailey, Chief  
Alachua County Fire Rescue  
911 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

RE: Station 19

As you know I was given direction by the City Of Gainesville Commission (City) in early 2012 to meet with you regarding the transition of fire and EMS services in the south west Gainesville annexed area covered by Alachua County Station 19 which has been located inside the city limits of Gainesville since June of 2009.

In our regular monthly meetings I informed you that the City was ready to transition fire and emergency services from Alachua County (County) to the City by October 2013 under the May 9, 2009 Transition of Services Agreement between the County and the City.

In a meeting held at your headquarters with members of our staffs I shared information regarding the impact of E19 responses into the City since the June 2009 annexation under the Fire Services Assistance Agreement (FSAA). I advised that the City was considering putting a response unit in the E19 area to reduce the monetary impact under the FSAA. I also shared several scenarios that could allow for a smooth transition of services that included purchasing Station 19 from the County while still providing for a County Rescue to co-locate at the station.

In our discussions in subsequent meetings we discussed ideas, including amending the FSAA and you asked that any decisions be put off until the completion of the revision of the County's 2004 Fire/EMS Services Master Plan (The Plan) and I agreed. The revision of The Plan turned out to be a much smaller scale Fire and EMS Services Performance Update (Update) that you sent to me on January 29, 2013. As it pertains to Station 19 the Update recommendation did not change from The Plan's recommendation.

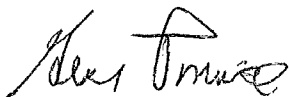
In February, I asked that we decide if we could make a joint recommendation on the transition of services in the south west annexed area in order to prepare for the fiscal year 2014 budget process. You stated that you wanted to wait till the Update was presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on March 5, 2013 to make a decision. We met on March 19<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting you stated that you had been directed following the March 5th BOCC meeting by Interim County Manager Rick Drummond and Betty Baker to not enter into a Transition of

Services agreement regarding Station 19 with the City unless you had direction from the BOCC. You also indicated there was no plan to seek direction from the BOCC concerning this matter.

While I appreciate your willingness to meet and discuss the transition of fire and EMS services in the south west annexed area, I am disappointed that after nearly a year of discussions that we will not be able to make a joint recommendation to ours respective Managers because of the direction you have received.

I have given a report to City Manager Blackburn on the County's position and he will make a decision on how he wants to move forward from here regarding this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene Prince".

Gene Prince