

June 1, 2020

Mayor and Purcellville Town Council  
Purcellville, VA 20132

Mr. Mayor and Members of Town Council:

I am writing on behalf of the membership and Board of Directors of the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company to provide some context for our current rules of engagement for public service activities during the Phase I COVID 19 response. The rules promulgated by the Governor are, in turn, interpreted by the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System (LCFR) and disseminated accordingly.

All volunteer companies in Loudoun County have been operating since the first week in March under new rules and procedures disseminated by LCFR in response to the COVID pandemic based on the best available advice from federal and local authorities and our system's Medical Director. No company is exempt from those rules.

Since early March we have been in a lockdown state, meaning the stations and facilities of the system are closed to the public. All normal public education and outreach activities have been suspended and staffing in the stations has been reduced to safe minimums to meet response standards. This is an attempt to keep traffic in and out of the station from outside to a minimum. Additional personnel not on duty are prohibited from being in the station. All on duty personnel are medically screened each and every shift, and all applicable rules for social distancing and wearing of PPE (masks) are required of all personnel in public.

The cancelling of almost all externally facing public relations activity is to avoid the potential to gather large numbers of people which would violate social distancing rules and other necessary isolation practices. Even with the 'loosening' of the 'stay at home' dictates in Phase I, the system is maintaining strict practices of avoiding any situation that could draw crowds and groups of people.

The PVFC has been the sponsor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade for decades. Planning begins in earnest, in collaboration with the Town, in late February and early March. We were as disappointed as others regarding the decision to cancel the parade this year. We are also disappointed that some of the suggestions for alternative recognition of that holiday, high school graduations and our own company sponsored events like Purcellville Public Safety Day, Open House and even "Sundaes on Saturday" during the summer are casualties of this pandemic response as well. We sought clarification from LCFR regarding the suggestions to see if there was any flexibility for participation and received a response that current prohibitions remain in effect until further notice.

The Company has collaborated with Town staff to participate in well planned 'virtual' activities and will continue to offer the services and resources of our company for these activities. However, I do not

anticipate any change any time soon to rules governing the activities that place us in a position to be attracting groups of people.

I hope you and the Council understand that we are primarily concerned with the health, welfare and safety of our community, as always, but ever more so during this pandemic. We remain ready to respond to any emergency request, but for now other requests need to comply with current special operating rules and regulations.

I am happy to meet with any who may be interested in additional discussion of this issue.

Respectfully,

Bradley J. Quin  
President, PVFC