

BECKY HAAS
MAYOR

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COMMISSIONERS

City of Richmond

402 Morton Street
Richmond, TX 77469
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June 15, 2022

KP George
Fort Bend County Judge
301 Jackson Street
Richmond, TX 77469

Judge George,

I would like to request that the City of Richmond be placed on the Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court Agenda for **June 28, 2022**. The City would like to formally request that the existing Interlocal Agreement between the County and City for Fire Protection be amended to account for rising costs associated with providing fire protection to the unincorporated portion of Fort Bend County within the City of Richmond's Fire District.

Staff within our Finance Department have calculated the full cost of fire protection service for the 8,790 equivalent single-family connections in unincorporated Fort Bend County, which are not covered by an existing fire protection agreement, to be \$12.33 per month per equivalent single-family connection (fixed and variable cost).

Nearly a decade ago the City and County entered into an evergreen Fire Protection Agreement. The amount the City is reimbursed for services, which is provided for within the agreement, has not increased despite the substantial growth within the County and the increasing costs of delivering services. The Richmond Fire Department has always provided the highest level of service to all areas we serve, including the County Facilities, which are serviced without any reimbursement. Unlike volunteer fire departments, the City staffs highly trained full-time firefighters, that respond 24 hours a day to all types of calls, including providing emergency medical response to homes and motor vehicle accidents in unincorporated areas within the County.

At the current annual allocation of \$350,000, the City is reimbursed only \$3.32 per month, per equivalent single family connection. This is well below the amount the city residents pay, or the Municipal Utility Districts, which are currently charged \$15.04 per month per equivalent single-family connection.

The County has historically been a great partner with the City in its endeavors to deliver the highest quality of service to all those living and traveling through the unincorporated areas we service. We sincerely hope that we can maintain this great partnership that has provided everyone with superior public safety services, which are delivered at cost effective rates.

On behalf of the City Commissioners of Richmond, I respectfully ask the County for an increase in the cost per equivalent single-family connections from \$3.32 to \$12.33 per equivalent single-family connection per month, which is an increase of \$950,000 per year.

If you are unable to place this item on the agenda or if you deny the request, we ask that you provide a reason why you are unable to fulfil this request.

We look forward to your consideration on June 28, 2022.



Terri Vela,
City Manager

CC
Mark Flathouse,
Fort Bend County Fire Marshal
