

## Commission Meeting

### Name

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### Comments:

Dear Sandoval County Commissioners,

We are deeply concerned with Chief Masterson's plan to virtually close the La Madera Volunteer Fire Department in Sandia Park. I know the Press Release says his plan is not to close the station, but to reduce the volunteer personnel (LMVFD) from 22 volunteer Fire Fighters at LMVFD to 11 personnel is obviously a plan to "Starve the Beast". 11 personnel are one half of what we currently have. We are experiencing a very hot and dry May. Our biggest concern is the danger of a wildland fire in our area, particularly with the proximity of the Cibola National Forest which is right to the west of the San Pedro Creek, San Pedro Overlook and La Madera neighborhoods. What are the implications of Chief Masterson's proposal for the wildland fire potential. How does our LMVFD defend our area with only 11 Volunteer Firefighters? His plan to dismiss the areas most experienced firefighters is simply dangerous. Does anybody remember the Camp and Woolsey Fires of 2018 in California, costing scores of lives and thousands of homes? We don't want to be in that same position as a result of this very short sighted maneuver.

We are also concerned about the insurance implications of reduction of our ISO rating. Currently the LMVFD has an ISO rating of 5. The Bernalillo County Firestation #6 at 25 Frost Road has an ISO Rating of 4. This reduced rating will cost all the homeowners with an increase in Homeowners Insurance rates. It will reduce property value and will result in many residents filing for a reduction in property tax.

Why would Chief Masterson want to fix what is not broken? The LMVFD has been a very successful operation. It's supported by the Tecolote Auxiliary, who purchases all the equipment for the Firefighters. Our area does everything we can to mitigate the expenses and to offset the cost of all the firefighters equipment by purchasing it through donations to the Tecolote Auxiliary.

We ask that you vote to reject Chief Masterson's proposal. It is not a sound plan and will leave the residents on the "other side of the Mountain" disadvantaged once again.

Thank you for listening,

Kathy and Joe Cooper