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To: Rob Green

Mr. Green, I am writing this as a follow up to our meeting that was held Feb. 24, 2020 at the Janesville City Hall.

As stated at that meeting, I have received several reports from our Fire fighters of problems and deficiencies they have already experienced with the PSO program that the City of Cedar Falls is attempting to implement. Being a past member of the Janesville Fire Department of 35 years, I understand the significance of what I have been hearing.

For example, at the Lockard house fire in Beaver Hills one of our newest members , basically a "Rookie " firefighter was put into the burning structure with (1) PSO. Proper fire ground procedures call for 3 men with air packs to make entry with 3 additional men in Air Packs staged at the entry point for back up. Our department requires an additional 3 men to be suited up and prepared to make entry if an emergency arises. Such an entry with just 2 men in air packs is not only irresponsible but dangerous as well.

On another occasion the PSO system was so understaffed one of our Firefighters was told to drive a Cedar Falls Fire truck to haul Water.

There are other examples, but there are too many to list. Such actions have caused our department members to operate outside the scope of safe operating standards. Such actions could also result in our insurance carrier denying coverage of such a situation.

I have visited with my council and we feel that if this situation is not corrected it could result in someone's death or at least legal actions against those operating on a fireground. We feel, if the City of Cedar Falls moves forward with the implementation of the PSO program, it could very well have serious if not deadly consequences.

In the name of safety and liability, our City Council is strongly considering withdrawing from our 28E mutual aid agreement with Cedar Falls and not permitting our Fire Department to assist in further calls involving the City of Cedar Falls.

I have been in contact with other area Mayors and know that we are not the only City considering taking such action.

David A. Beenblossom
Mayor, City of Janesville