



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Memorandum

To: Members of Finance and Administration Committee

From: Patrick F. Sweeney, Chief of Fire

cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin

Date: April 15, 2019

Re: Donation of 2004 Fire Department Rescue Squad, University Hospitals
Emergency Medical and Disaster Preparedness Institute

In May of 2018, the Fire Department decommissioned a 2004 Rescue Squad that served the departments needs for 14 years and was replaced by a 2018 Horton Rescue Squad.

In an effort to remove this Rescue Squad from the department's inventory, the department would like to donate this vehicle to University Hospitals EMS Training and Disaster Preparedness Institute.

University Hospitals has provided the Shaker Heights Fire Department with more than 25 years of *Medical Control* direction and instruction which has served to make us one of the most professional and well-regarded EMS service provider organizations in Northeast Ohio. Providing our paramedics with ongoing training which helps us meet industry standards and continuing education requirements, developing and implementing comprehensive operational protocols to ensure our responders are following all recommended intervention guidelines, and supplying our department with an extensive array of cutting edge medical equipment throughout these many years, are just some examples of the invaluable support that we receive from the University Hospitals system.

The return-on-investment that results from of our relationship with U.H. is significant and weighs heavily in our favor. Each year, our paramedics receive hundreds of hours of continuing education instruction from Med-Control staff and doctors which equates to more than \$6,000 in annual instructor costs had it not been provided free-of-charge by U.H. Protocol-based theoretical and hands-on training by these instructors ensures our paramedics and first-responders are always following the most appropriate and prescribed medical algorithms and procedures – an extremely important factor in saving patient lives while also mitigating the liability associated with improperly applied medical care. Additionally, we have benefitted greatly by University Hospitals generous contributions of a wide variety of innovative medical equipment and supplies which ultimately enhances all aspects of our emergency service delivery system. Our two new LUCAS CPR devices (\$12k each), EZ-IO Bone guns (\$4k each), King-Vision

laryngoscopes (\$4K each), RAD 57 radiological devices (\$4k each), and routine drug replacement (\$\$), are just some of the innovative and technologically advanced devices we receive from University Hospitals Medical Control. Taking into account all of the donated equipment and training that is provided by University Hospitals, it is no exaggeration to say that we realize savings of tens of thousands of dollars per year. We rely heavily on their assistance and we certainly would not be able to deliver the superior level of emergency services we consistently provide without both their financial and professional support.

It is with this supportive and collaborative history between our organizations in mind that I submit this request to provide a small reciprocation of the benefit we are provided from University Hospitals by donating our 2004 Horton Ambulance to their recently established EMS Training and Disaster Preparedness Institute, which provides medical command, oversight, and education to approximately 150 prehospital agencies and fire departments in northeast Ohio. This division is dedicated to all facets of emergency services and provide unparalleled training and emergency care to all their associate agencies and medical care providers.

The Institute is currently in need of a rescue squad to utilize in their community training venues and medical care events which are coordinated throughout the area all year long. Bringing on-site, hands-on training to area fire departments and EMS service agencies, providing first aid and supportive health assessments at a wide range of events such as race venues, concerts, and a variety of other community gatherings, and working to bring basic medical support interventions to the underserved people in the Greater Cleveland Area, are just some of the important functions that this rescue squad would help to facilitate.

To this end, University Hospitals initiated an inquiry to our fire department regarding the possible donation of our recently decommissioned 2004 Horton Rescue Squad. This apparatus has served us faithfully for more than 13 years and was just recently retired in 2018. The unit was last appraised two years ago at which time its value was estimated at approximately \$10,000. It is assumed that, with its current age and additional mileage, the squad might sell at trade-in for \$8,000 – \$10,000.

It is my opinion that the goodwill generated from the donation of this vehicle to University Hospitals Emergency Medical Services Training and Disaster Preparedness Institute would be a small but significant gesture of our appreciation for the ongoing service and support that University Hospitals graciously provides to our department on a continual basis. I am hoping that you agree that this is a worthy request to which we might respond to favorably.

This item was presented to the Safety and Public Works Committee on April 5th and received a favorable recommendation by all in attendance. The Fire Department is requesting that the Finance Committee recommend The City of Shaker Heights donate the 2004 Horton Rescue Squad to University Hospitals Training and Disaster Preparedness Institute for the purpose of supporting their community outreach initiatives. Approval of this request would allow the city to transfer title of this vehicle to University Hospitals as quickly as possible.