



## 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 1991 Fire Department Ladder Truck, Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center

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In November of 2017 the Fire Department decommissioned a 1991 Fire Department Ladder Truck which has served the community for 26 years and was replaced by a 2017 Pierce Ladder Truck.

In an effort to remove this truck from the department's inventory, the City of Shaker Heights contracted with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus to serve as a broker to market and attempt to sell this vehicle on the open market.

In March of 2018, the Fire Department was contacted by the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center about the possibility of Shaker Heights loaning this vehicle to their organization. They wanted to use the truck to assist in visually marketing the museum to the public, especially during home Indians games, as they are located directly across the street from Progressive Field.

The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center has been instrumental in preserving the rich history and contributions that the fire service has provided to Northeast Ohio. They are also actively engaged with their education center in providing fire safety education to school children and visitors to the center.

On March 26, 2018, City Council approved an agreement that allowed the Fire Department to loan the 1991 Ladder Truck to the Museum for the purpose of promoting their organization.

The agreement between The City of Shaker Heights and The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center was executed on April 3, 2018 and included language that required the museum to assume all costs and liabilities associated with this vehicle. Additionally, it was communicated through this agreement that the city will continue to attempt to sell the truck, and the Museum will return the truck if a buyer is identified.

Over the last 12 months, this truck has been on loan with the Museum and has been used to promote the organization as was hoped. During this same period of time, the City continued to utilize Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus as a broker for the potential sale of this vehicle. Unfortunately, the department has received no interest for the purchase of this truck and it is believed that this is most probably due to both its age and the wear and tear it has undertaken over its many years of service in Northeast Ohio.

Recently, the Board Members of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center have expressed to me how much they have appreciated the use of this vehicle and how it has helped them promote the museum to visitors of Cleveland. They also inquired as to the possibility of the City of Shaker Heights permanently donating this vehicle to their organization.

With the appropriate approvals, the Fire Department would like to support this request for several reasons which include the inability to find a purchaser for this vehicle and, importantly, the good work that will result from this donation relative to promoting fire safety education for the area's school aged children. While the Museum has assumed all costs and liabilities associated with the apparatus up to this time, a donation and transfer of title to the museum would completely remove the city from any liabilities associated with this truck.

This item was presented to the Safety and Public Works Committee on April 5<sup>th</sup> and received a favorable recommendation by all in attendance. There was some discussion relative to the legality of leaving the Shaker Heights Fire Department lettering on the truck. Chief Sweeney advised that a legal opinion will be obtained from the Law Department. The Fire Department is requesting that the Finance Committee recommend that The City of Shaker Heights donate the 1991 Ladder Truck to the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center for the purpose of promoting their organization and fire safety education to the broader community in Northeast Ohio. Approval of this request would allow the city to transfer title of this truck to the Museum as quickly as possible.