



RANDY GEORGE  
MAYOR

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON  
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Dear Resident,

February 2, 2018

I am writing to you on behalf of the office of the Mayor and the entire Council, and the membership of the North Haledon Fire Department to set the record straight regarding the distorted statements set forth in the letter allegedly written by the membership of former Company No. 1 you recently received regarding the Borough's Fire Department.

As your representatives, we take very seriously our responsibility to keep you and your family safe. To advance that goal, members of our Fire Department train at the Passaic County Public Safety Academy to become certified firefighters and then participate in monthly training drills to maintain their certification. Since 2010 the members of the North Haledon Fire Department on High Mountain Road have protected the Borough by answering over 1,800 calls without incident. The Fire Department has up to date equipment and we strive to keep it that way. In that regard it was time to purchase a new fire truck to replace one that was 38 years old and we have done that last year. Because the needs of the Borough have grown, we needed to get a larger truck and to store it we need to expand the firehouse on High Mountain Road. An application for that expansion was recently approved by the Planning Board so that the members of the North Haledon Fire Department can continue to protect you.

As to the complaints in the letter, they are all dealt with in the Consent Judgement entered by Judge Rothstadt (based on the agreement of both parties) in 2012 which listed various items that needed to be complied with before the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue could reopen. As is clear from Judge Rothstadt's Judgement, all firematic equipment was assigned to be stored at the firehouse on High Mountain Road, nor was it our decision to keep the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue closed. The members of the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue caused that because they have not complied with the terms of the Judgement. Our ISO (Insurance Services Office) report states that the NH FS 1 (the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue) does not meet the minimum requirements for recognition as a fire station, and also states that one firehouse is sufficient for the Borough. Based on this and the Judgement we cannot place a fire truck at the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue, nor can we let unqualified and untrained firemen operate the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue. Please see a summary of the Consent Judgement at the end of this letter.

It is strange that the letter makes no mention that the membership of the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue had to build the present former firehouse on Belmont Avenue in 1999 because they asked the Borough to purchase a larger firetruck that did not fit into their building. The letter also neglects to mention that the Mayor and Council gave the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue over \$300,000 to build the present building. Sad that the membership of the former firehouse on Belmont Avenue is now complaining when the same thing is being done for the firehouse on High Mountain Road.

Regarding the firetruck that we sold at auction in 2010, it was indeed resold for more money than it was purchased for, but it was refurbished and upgraded by the purchaser, who advised that they ended up selling it at a loss.

I encourage you to attend any Mayor and Council meeting, usually on the third Wednesday of the month, or contact me directly, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have and produce any documentary proof you would like to see, including the Consent Judgement.

I hope I have cleared up any confusion created by the unsigned letter allegedly written by the membership of former Company No. 1.

Borough of North Haledon



Randy George, Mayor

Consent Judgement between North Haledon Fire Company No. 1 et al and the Borough of North Haledon signed and filed by Judge Garry S. Rothstadt on June 13, 2012:

1. There shall be a one year activation period for the members of former Fire Company 1 and any new members recruited who comply in all respects with the application process in place. **Seven applications were picked up, but not one member completed the application process.**
2. All individuals complying with the aforementioned application process shall be subject to a one year activation period. **Not one person complied with the application process.**
3. The one year activation process shall not commence until the application process is complete and all required training is complete but in no event later than 6 months from the date of entry of this Judgement. **Not one person completed the required training, thus there is no one from former North Haledon Fire Company No. 1 on active status.**
4. The minimum number of members to be obtained prior to the Activation Period and maintained during the one year Activation Period and thereafter shall be 8 Class A Firemen and 2 Class B Firemen. **There are 0 members.**

Since not one of the provisions above have been satisfied by Company No. 1, the rest of the Order cannot apply and the Belmont Avenue Firehouse cannot be operational. These are the facts.