



LLOYD AYERS  
FIRE COMMISSIONER

# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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May 14, 2014

The Honorable Darrell Clarke  
City Council President  
City Hall, Room 490  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke:

This letter is in response to questions raised at the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 hearing before the Committee of the Whole on the Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the Fire Department. The questions were recorded as follows:

**From Councilman O'Brien:**

**1. How many employees did your department suspend last year?**

There were 46 suspensions in 2013. That only represents 2 percent of the 2,169 uniform members.

**2. What was the total amount of hours of suspension time last year?**

There were only 1,876 actual suspension hours issued in 2013 out of a total 4,737,096 staffing hours. It should be noted that out of the 1,876 total suspension hours, 640 hours or 34 percent of the total, were issued to just 4 employees for drug and alcohol violations.

**3. Can you provide an analysis of the overtime used for replacing the suspended employees?**

If overtime was required to backfill every one of the 1,876 suspension hours, the cost would be approximately \$71,288. It is likely that overtime was required to backfill most of the suspension hours.

**4. Do you know why Lieutenant Babst was assigned to the Fire Academy without any responsibility?**

We disagree with the statement that Lieutenant Babst was assigned to the Fire Academy with no responsibilities, duties or work assignments.

**5. Do you know how much it cost the city in overtime to replace Lieutenant Babst?**

Estimating that Lieutenant Babst was at the Fire Academy for approximately 32 tours, the cost of backfill overtime would be \$64,512. Adjusting that amount by the cost of assigning someone else there on straight time to help with the various projects Lieutenant Babst assisted with, the cost would drop to \$21,504.

**6. Have the brownouts resulted in increased response times?**

Brownouts began in August 2010. The response times went up in 2010 from 2009 slightly (closings occurred in 2009) however those increases could have been caused by a number of factors such as increased traffic congestion, inclement weather, snow storms, etc. Yet from 2010 through 2013 times have been consistent, and the average is within the 5 minute 20 second standard. Please refer to the following table that shows the response times over the past six years:

	<b>Engine Average</b>	<b>Medic Average</b>
2008	4:31	6:47
2009	4:37	7:02
2010	4:53	7:25
2011	4:59	7:46
2012	4:57	8:02
2013	4:52	8:04

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the information provided in this response.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Ayers  
Fire Commissioner

cc: Everett Gillison, Chief of Staff  
Rob Dubow, Director of Finance  
Rebecca Rhynhart, Budget Director  
Fiona Greig, Deputy Budget Director