



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 9th, 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:

	Engine Average	Medic Average
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