



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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June 7, 2016

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 13, 2016 hearings before the Committee of the Whole on the Fire Department's budget. At this hearing, the following questions were asked:

### **Councilman Domb:**

#### **Why did Personal Services (class 100) go up so much?**

There are a number of factors related to the class 100 increase, including but not limited to:

- Requirement under the Collective Bargaining Agreement to maintain minimum staffing requirements in accordance with national standards
- Actual vacancies among firefighting (168 vacancies) and EMS (45 vacancies) personnel
- Coverage of major emergency incidents and special events (e.g. weather emergencies, large-scale events such as the Papal visit, and programmed special events that occur throughout the year)
- Operational expansion of 12 medic units from (12) hour dayshifts only to (24) hours of operation. An increase of (12) operational hours
- Maintenance of minimum staffing requirements, resulting in overtime events, while managing essential training (1. training the new classes of personnel; as well as, 2. training existing personnel who have to be taken out of the field to attend training e.g. Inspector/Community Risk Reduction certification for Fire Officers)

The Department is currently reviewing its own class 100 carefully and anticipates seeing an overall reduction with the introduction of new firefighting and EMS personnel graduating to full-performance services between July 2016 and December 2016.

**Councilwoman Bass:**

**What was the impact of the media campaign around calling 911 for non-emergency medical concerns?**

The media campaign around calling 911 for non-emergency medical concerns has only just begun, so we do not yet have information about its impact. The campaign kicked-off during EMS week, May 15 – May 21, 2016 and targets high use zip areas (19124, 19134, 19133, 19140).

Yours in service,



Adam K. Thiel  
Fire Commissioner