

Long Lake Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association

Station 1

340 North Willow Drive
Orono, Minnesota 55356
Office: 952-473-9701

Station 2

3770 Shoreline Drive
Orono, Minnesota 55391

Members of the Orono City Council,

The cities of Orono and Long Lake have asked their citizens to step up to become fully trained and certified fire service professionals and build a fire department that serves the needs of the collective community. That's exactly what we, the current members of the Long Lake Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association (LLVFRA) and our predecessors have done. We have selflessly dedicated years of our lives to forming a highly trained, successfully functioning, well respected fire department that is set up to serve the needs of our larger community today and to grow along with the needs of our community's future.

As the two cities have grappled over their future fire protection, the members of the LLVFRA have had one and only one request and that is to keep this fire department whole. Remaining whole not only preserves the successful department that you asked us to build for this community but also we, as knowledgeable fire industry professionals, understand that fire related emergency response needs are best served when resources and efforts are combined to service a common area. In other words, when cities work together the citizens receive better, faster and more cost-effective services. This is well-known and accepted as an industry best practice. Because of the recently proposed plans to prematurely annex Station 2 and its call area, which goes directly against our request, we feel that it is important to repeat our strongly encouraged recommendation to keep this department whole. It simply does not benefit our community to dismantle this operationally successful fire department and in turn create two superfluous departments with uncertain futures.

Members of the LLVFRA are citizens of our collective community who serve our collective community and want the opportunity to continue to do so as one department for decades to come.

As a demonstration of your stated support of the dedicated and proud Firefighters who serve your community, we ask you to vote against any accelerated timeline(s) that would in any way dismantle or separate the Long Lake Fire Department prior to the end of the existing contract.

Respectfully,

The members of the Long Lake Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association