

COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRUNSWICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
75 COURTHOUSE DRIVE N.E.
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28422

MAILING ADDRESS:
POST OFFICE BOX 249
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28422

TELEPHONE
(910) 253-2000
(800) 442-7033 (NC)
TELECOPY
(910) 253-2004

February 28, 2018

Fire Services of Brunswick County

Dear Fire Services Professional:

As you know, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners voted in June 2017 to form the Brunswick County Fire Commission. There has been a great deal of discussion about the reasons behind forming the fire commission, which has resulted in some misunderstandings about its purpose. Please allow me this opportunity to clear the air on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

First, a rumor has circulated that the Fire Commission was formed to pave the way for a county-wide fire department. **That is not the case.** The Board of Commissioners values the contributions and service of everyone involved in fire protection in Brunswick County, including the volunteer firefighters who sacrifice their time and risk their lives to protect our citizens and property.

Again, let me be clear: the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners is not planning any effort to create a countywide fire service department, and has no interest in doing so in the foreseeable future. Because we want this to be abundantly clear, the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to send this letter at our February 19, 2018 meeting.

Now that we've cleared the air on what the Fire Commission is **not** about, please allow me the opportunity to review why it was created. Our vision is for the Fire Commission to provide a setting in which the key players involved in fire protection in Brunswick County can have an open, honest dialogue about the challenges we face and how to best address them.

Specifically, the Fire Commission's mission is as follows:

1. Making recommendations to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners for continuing improvement of the fire protection system.
2. Reviewing and making recommendations on funding fire services; funding mechanisms should include fees and/or tax rates.
3. Reviewing and making recommendations on operating budget requests.
4. Reviewing and making recommendations on CIP budget requests.

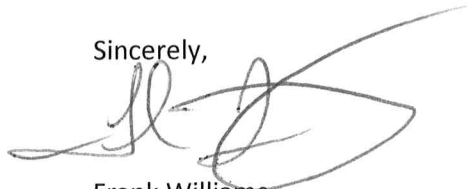


5. Reviewing and supporting firefighter and volunteer incentive retention and recruitment programs.
6. Reviewing ISO and consultants reports and recommending action for improvement as deemed necessary.
7. Developing and providing overview of all service operational regulations and guidelines for all Brunswick County fire protection services.

Make no mistake, there are a number of significant challenges looming before everyone involved in fire protection in Brunswick County. The Brunswick County Fire Commission will only be effective in addressing those challenges if all of the players involved focus on what is best for the citizens we serve. In the past, the ability to adapt to change and meet new challenges has often been impeded by turf wars, political grudges, personal dislikes, egos and loyalty to the status quo. Moving forward, we are confident and hopeful that all Fire Commission members, all departments and all other stakeholders will work together to meet the needs of our fire services volunteers and professionals, uphold the expectations of our citizens, and adapt to the changing demands of our fast-growing county.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Frank Williams
Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

cc: Ann Hardy, County Manager
John Ingram, Sheriff
Brian Watts, Emergency Services Director
Malcolm Smith, Fire Administrator
Members of the Fire Commission
Andrea White, Clerk to the Board
Senator Bill Rabon
Representative Frank Iler
Representative Deb Butler
Brunswick County Mayors & Municipal Managers

Brunswick County Fire Commission Membership:

<u>Name</u>	<u>District/Category</u>
Pat Sykes	Brunswick County Commissioner
Mike Forte	Brunswick County Commissioner
Robert Yoho	OIB Fire Chief Appt.
William Bailey	Supply Fire Chief Appt.
Charles Drew	Southport Fire Chief Appt.
Teresa Tickle	BSL Fire Chief Appt.
Donnie Williams	Navassa Fire Chief Appt.
Doug Todd	President Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Carol Dunham	District 1
Len Henderson	District 2
Donna Loosley	District 3
Vacant	District 4
William Wilson	District 5
John Fugee	At-Large
Joyce Dunn	Mayor - Carolina Shores
Alan Holden	Mayor - Holden Beach
Loman Scott	Mayor Pro-Tem - Oak Island
Walt Eccard	Mayor - Shallotte
Brenda Bozeman	Mayor - Leland
Brian Watts	Emergency Services Director
Malcolm Smith	Brunswick County Fire Administrator