

Madam President and Members of the City Council,

I would like to voice my opposition to the city fire department's request to leave the closest-unit pact agreement with regional fire departments. An article in the Star Tribune today ("St. Paul seeks to douse fire pact") cites the statistics of these calls and it shows that St. Paul has benefitted from this agreement. Over the past 3 years St. Paul has received aid more times than it has given aid. These are urgent calls that require attention as soon as possible and quibbling over jurisdiction and arbitrary lines drawn to demarcate city limits should not impact any resident's ability to receive life-saving attention. Surely we can afford to continue responding to these calls. It may be the case that on these calls, the jurisdiction's firefighters respond within seconds of the out-of-jurisdiction department, but seconds matter in a fire. Seconds matter in a heart attack. Please help St. Paul to continue to be a good neighbor.

Thank you,
Cory Hetchler
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