



January 12, 2017

Dear Resident:

Thanks to the cooperation and commitment of our local firefighters union and the City of Chicago Heights, the union's leadership and membership have agreed to a new four-year labor contract.

This is good news.

This labor contract is good for Chicago Heights firefighters. This contract is good for Chicago Heights taxpayers, because taxpayers will save money. This agreement will also enable my plan for the Chicago Heights Fire Department modernization to move forward.

The City's 5-point modernization plan seeks to assure you and your family's long-term safety:

- First, the new contract allows the City to invest in modernized first responder equipment while maintaining our current force of 60 full-time firefighters and keeping open all our fire stations.
- Second, the City is working in partnership with Franciscan St. James Health for the construction of an expanded Urgent Care center in Chicago Heights that will have an advanced life support (ALS) ambulance on-site 24 hours a day.
- Third, the City will get smart on our workforce. The new labor contract allows CHFD to flexibly schedule our 60 full-time firefighters on each shift and it will create a Firefighter Apprentice program, which will save money.
- Fourth, the City's new ability to flexibly schedule our 60 full-time firefighters will significantly reduce overtime costs and cut increasing public employee pension costs.
- Fifth, by relying on flexible scheduling, **the City and taxpayers will be able to save money** to reinvest in the department. Two new ambulances have been purchased, with plans for two additional ambulances and new fire suppression equipment, and we will continue to provide the current level of paramedic services.

The successful labor negotiation with the Chicago Heights firefighters union and the implementation of my 5-point modernization plan represent my commitment to our community's first responders, to our community's safety, and to our community's businesses and homeowners who pay the bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Gonzalez".

Mayor David A. Gonzalez

P.S. - If you have any questions, please call me at my office in City Hall: (708) 756-5315.