

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: No Fire Department Consolidation--Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 2:52:00 PM

Dear Mary,

I know this comment is being sent the same day as the scheduled public meeting, but I hope it can be included among the comments received for consideration.

It seems to me unreasonable to make a decision on consolidating our fire department with the Gold Ridge Fire District without giving careful consideration to the alternative proposal put forth by Fire Chief Bill Braga (*Short and Long Term Plan for the Future of the Sebastopol Fire Department*). I see many cogent arguments for retaining local control over our fire department. Many commentators will articulate those arguments so I will not attempt to summarize them here. I will only note that the Matrix Consulting Group report was finalized less than a month ago and has been publicly available for considerably less time than that. Given that there is a thoughtful alternative proposal on the table *from our own fire department*, careful consideration should be given to the merits of both. That can't be done quickly. **Any action on consolidation should be held in abeyance until the pros and cons of the two alternative reports can be given thorough consideration.**

For the record, I am a resident of Sebastopol (Henon Drive) and very much a stakeholder in this issue.

Sincerely,
Carl Pilcher