

Council members, city, and residents,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the current prioritization of the Fire Reorganization/Consolidation initiative, and to respectfully request that this item be removed from the immediate list of priorities and postponed to February 2025.

My primary concern is the lack of regular reporting from the Fire Ad Hoc Committee, which has limited the public's ability to remain informed and engaged in the decision-making process. The absence of updates undermines the transparency that should be fundamental to any significant municipal project, particularly one that involves such critical community services.

Additionally, there has been insufficient opportunity for further public input on this matter. The community's voice is essential in ensuring that any changes to our fire services reflect the needs and concerns of our residents. Without robust public participation, any decisions made may not fully capture the best interests of our city.

Furthermore, the need for consolidation remains unclear, particularly in light of the expected revenue gains from the recently approved sales tax measure. This new funding source could significantly alter the financial landscape, potentially negating the need for consolidation or suggesting alternative solutions that have not yet been explored. It would be prudent to allow time for a thorough assessment of how these funds can be utilized to support our fire services without the immediate need for consolidation.

Given these concerns, I propose that the Fire Reorganization/Consolidation be deferred to the February 2025 Goals and Priority Setting Workshop. This would allow for more comprehensive public engagement, clearer reporting from the Fire Ad Hoc Committee, and a better understanding of the fiscal implications of the sales tax measure.

In its place, I suggest that the Classification and Compensation Study be reprioritized. This study is crucial for ensuring that our city's staffing and compensation structures are competitive and equitable, which directly impacts our ability to retain and attract qualified personnel across all departments. Prioritizing this study now would allow us to address pressing workforce issues that could otherwise be deferred to our detriment.

Thank you for considering this request. I believe this adjustment in priorities will better serve our community by ensuring more informed and equitable decision-making.

- Kyle Falbo