



EL DORADO HILLS PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

March 14, 2017

El Dorado Hills Fire Department
Board of Directors
Jim Hartley, President
1050 Wilson Blvd
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

President Hartley,

At the last El Dorado Hills Professional Firefighters meeting on March 14th, 2017, the Union body voted to post a letter to the EDHFD Board of Directors in response to the agenda item scheduled for your monthly meeting on Thursday, March 16th, 2017, VI. C. 5. A. – “Review and approve Peace Officer with Code Enforcement & Arson Investigative Responsibility Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) Program Policy and change to Rules and Regulations.”

EDHPFF is requesting the Board of Directors vote NO on any item pertaining to the arming of El Dorado Hills Fire Department members.

There is concern that arming of department members will create an environment that has traditionally been free from firearms to an environment that condones firearms in the stations and carried on fire department vehicles. Our membership is concerned about the public image we have worked so hard in the past to maintain and the introduction of firearms into the fire service seems out of place and unnecessary. Perhaps a better solution is to be proactive in evaluating our fire stations for security risks rather than being reactive by potentially discharging firearms. Furthermore, we are concerned about our personal safety in and around the Department by the introduction of firearms.

Should the Department require this level of protection, we feel that the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department should be involved in any field activity that could put our personnel in harm's way.

Lastly, in times of discussion about financial responsibility, we feel it counterproductive to introduce a costly program that requires additional equipment and continued mandatory training.

EDHPFF respectfully requests you continue with a firearms-free workplace and instead focus on fortifying our current facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mike MacKenzie, President
El Dorado Hills Professional Firefighters