

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 47

IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR BOARD WORKSHOP

TO: THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 47
IN OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS; AND TO ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 47 in Harris County, Texas, will hold a **board member workshop on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., at the District Fire Station** located at **19636 Saums, Houston, Texas 77084**, inside the boundaries of the District, open to the public, to review, research and discuss, but not act upon, the following matters:

- 1) **Westlake Fire Department Contract:** Roundtable discussion with board of directors of Westlake Volunteer Fire Department to affirm the ongoing relationship between the District and the Department.
 - a)
 - Discuss history of relationship between the two Boards; how that has evolved; and how it has been impacted by financial consideration:
 - (1) early days before creation of district, WLVFD was the only party and therefore the only decision maker
 - (2) after creation of RFPD with a \$0.03 tax rate for fire only, WLVFD was still the primary decision maker; had to keep fire and EMS separate
 - (3) RFPD became ESD and tax increased from \$0.03 to \$0.06; ESD and WLVFD had shared input on decisions but the financing began to shift from WLVFD donations to tax income; contact between Boards flowed both directions generally through Chief Palmer
 - (4) ESD tax rate increased to \$0.10; majority of funding is from ESD so ESD became primary decision maker
 - (5) Battle between West I-10 and ESD 48 threatened future balance between boards
 - (6) August 2021 new contract establishing updated relationship which more accurately reflects the financial and legal realities of ESD operations; new contract recognizes autonomy of WLVFD regarding its assets and ESD responsibility for its assets; new contract intended to head off battles like West I-10 and ESD 48 dispute
 - (7) Historical approach has been privatization of services from ESD to WLVFD, which has worked well for decades
 - b)
 - Discussion of employees and volunteers:
 - (1) SAFER grant raises questions about staffing by employees and volunteers; federal grant will pay for employees to staff equipment for three years
 - (2) Should employer be WLVFD or ESD?
 - (3) FLSA exemption and overtime costs?
 - (4) Benefits package in WLVFD versus ESD?
 - (5) How to attract best employees?
 - (6) Who do employees report to?

- (7) Full time versus part time?
- (8) Should volunteers be WLVFD or ESD?
- (9) Who do volunteers report to?

c)

- Discussion of accounting and funds management under 2021 contract:
 - (1) WLVFD income versus ESD income
 - (2) WLVFD expenses versus ESD expenses
 - (3) Financial statement reporting

d)

- Discussion of Chief responsibilities:
 - (1) Currently employed by WLVFD; Should this change to employed by ESD 47?
 - (2) Reports to ESD

1) **Other:** Review such other matters that may come before the Board.

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