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From: Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization <info@munjoyhill.org>

To: Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization info@munjoyhill.org

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 at 09:55:45 AM EDT

Subject: We have an important update for you



Good morning,

It feels as though we've been filling-up your inbox lately and if that's the case, please forgive the deluge. Sometimes, so many important issues seem to converge that it's difficult to figure out how much to spread the word. This particular issue isn't so difficult to prioritize however.

At 2pm today, we'll be gathering in front of the Munjoy Hill Fire Station in hopes of sending a message to our City Council regarding their budget proposal to permanently remove from service Engine One, one of only five fire engines across Portland. Along with it will be several crew members who will be reassigned.

I'm still not sure why the City feels the need for such extreme measures in its FY2020 budget. True, the City has debt. It was brought on by decisions back in 2001. And it's true, public money is not always managed as wisely as many may wish it to be. But the loss of a fire engine, one we've had for a very long time, transcends mere budgetary belt-tightening. In fact, our Board of Directors at the MHNO feels it to be a costly, dangerous and, eventually deadly mistake.

This isn't an engine for Munjoy Hill, it's only based here. It services all of Portland, every single day. It is Portland's fire truck, and this is Portland's risk, not only ours.

Will you please join us today at 2 to show your support? We don't see this as political. We're not partisan in our request, we've not coordinated any messaging or efforts with the City or with its Fire Fighters Union other than sharing the same time today at the Munjoy Hill Fire Station. We've worked

quietly on this issue for about two months, knowing it was coming before most of the public was aware of it. We quietly lobbied the City leadership and our City Councilors. But we realized we had to become more vocal after the City's Finance Committee kept the cut in its final version of the budget, punting it to the full City Council.

MAKE NO MISTAKE: Any final plan, introduced by anyone, which will see the removal of any apparatus/vehicles/staff from the Portland Fire Department or Portland Police Department, now or in the immediate future presents a direct risk to all of us. Our first responders must be kept ready and equipped. Their services are often the first thing we think of when we pay our taxes or think of risk to our lives or property. We have a duty to keep them ready for their own.

Thank you for continuing to let us update you. It's a lot of work and we realize it's a lot of messaging. But that's what you have us here for and we hope we're living up to our mission in doing so. We don't make this call to action lightly. We realize some will be irritated by how vocal we've become on the issue. But that's why we're here and it's why you've been so generous with your support and membership. Let's stand together on this issue.

See you at 2pm at the fire house.

Warmly,
Jay Norris
The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization | 92 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101

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