



# TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

302 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516 (919) 968-2781

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ATTACHMENT 3

October 16, 2002

Mr. Ralph Abrahams  
3910 Sweeten Creek Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Once again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Sweeten Creek Neighborhood executive board on September 5<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed answering the many questions posed to me about the Sweeten Creek fire and our operational capabilities. Regarding your email from September 9th, I have answered your additional questions below.

- 1. How many firefighters were added in the last 12 years?** In 1994, twelve new positions were added to the Fire Department to replace part-time public safety officers assigned to the Fire Department after the Town Council voted to split Public Safety. Over the last 12 years, staffing for the Chapel Hill Fire Department has increased by 19 people. In 1998, an Assistant Fire Inspector was added to the Life Safety Division due to increasing workload. The other 18 personnel were added to the Emergency Operations Division incrementally to address Occupational Safety and Health Administration's "Two In/Two Out" mandate, increasing service delivery by the introduction of Squad 33 in 2000 and staff Station #5, located in the southern portion of the City. The Emergency Operations Division is tasked with fire suppression and other emergency response activities.
- 2. What new equipment has been purchased in last 12 years?** The Town of Chapel Hill has set up a 15 year replacement schedule for fire apparatus. The Fire Chief recommended this frequency because it was a reasonable approach to fire fleet replacement. The chart below details front line fire apparatus:

<u>Unit Designation</u>	<u>Location of Unit</u>	<u>Date Purchased</u>
Engine 34*	Station #4: Weaver Dairy Rd and Airport Road..	1988
Tower 71	Station #3: Elliott Road and E. Franklin Street	1992
Engine 32	Station #2: Glen Lennox area – NC 54 East	1996
Squad 33	Station #3: Elliott Road and E. Franklin Street	2000
Engine 35	Station #5: Bennett Road and 15-501 South	2001
Engine 31	Station #1: Airport Road next to Town Hall	2002

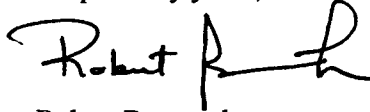
\*Engine 34 is scheduled to be replaced during FY 2002-03 budget year.

- 3. What is the average salary for the Chapel Hill firefighter?** As of this year, the average salary for the rank of firefighter in Chapel Hill is \$32,499.
- 4. How many homes have been built in Chapel Hill in the last 12 years?** According to data found in the Town's "2002 Data Book", 4,110 new residences have been built. This number includes both single- and multi-family dwelling units.

5. **What has been the population growth in Chapel Hill in the last 12 years?** According to data found in the Town's "2002 Data Book", the population has grown from 38,872 people to 52,440 people.
6. **How many business structures have been built in Chapel Hill in the last 12 years?** This question is harder to pin down. Since 1990, there have been 123 new non-residential buildings constructed. Whether the new building is a single business building or multiple business office complex is not readily available. Also, construction projects on the University and Hospital properties continue to increase annually.

Once again, I hope this information answers your questions.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Bosworth". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "R" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Bosworth  
Deputy Chief, Emergency Operations Division

Cc: Dan Jones, Fire Chief