



# CITY OF HUDSON – FIRE DEPARTMENT

40 S. Oviatt Street . Hudson, Ohio . 44236 . (330) 342-1860 . [www.hudson.oh.us](http://www.hudson.oh.us)



4-12-22

Recommendation to City Council:

I recommend that we continue to use the current separate Fire and EMS models for the next four to five years and then re-evaluate their effectiveness. I base this recommendation on the following:

- Cost effectiveness of both organizations compared to a combined Fire/EMS department
- The significant capital costs estimated to transition to a combined Fire/EMS department
- Current qualifications, capabilities and staffing levels of both organizations
- The ability of both organizations to meet the needs of the community
- Years of experience of our personnel and their knowledge of our community

In March of 2017, I formed the Ad Hoc EMS Sustainability Group to determine the future needs of Hudson EMS. That group meet weekly for four months and compiled an eleven-page report that was presented to City Council on July 11, 2017. Feel free to review that document to see the amount of research necessary just for that comprehensive, single department study.

To look at the future of both Fire and EMS services, I recommend that in three to four years an Ad Hoc committee be formed to begin carefully evaluating those combined future needs. This should give enough time for long-term planning and appropriate finance questions to be included.

That committee should be tasked with recommending if or when it would be necessary to transition to a combined Fire/EMS model and how to best make use of our current membership, facilities and equipment. If the transition is recommended, a safe, seamless process should be put in place. Priority should be given to ensuring we do not lose all of the leadership, knowledge and experience that our dedicated members have, while allowing those members that are qualified and interested an opportunity for a position within the new department.

If the current separate Fire and EMS models are once again recommended, then the Ad Hoc committee should become a reoccurring committee every four years for re-evaluation purposes.

I further recommend that we move ahead soon with replacement of the existing Safety Center with a new facility to be located directly behind the current facility. This new Safety Center should be designed and built with the ability to be transitioned into a potential combined Fire/EMS Department's main station at a future date with minimal modifications needed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jerry Varnes*

Jerry Varnes  
Hudson Fire/EMS Chief