

The AFA is in support of item 57 (PFAS) and neutral on item 26 (Ready Rebound Contract to help with workers comp issues) from today's agenda. I also wanted to make you aware of our recently created AFA Cancer Committee (Please see letter below). Once this committee has generated recommendations, I will set a meeting to discuss with the Fire Chief, City Manger's Office and Council.

Also, the AFA is in strong support of any approval of additional leave time for Dawn Hirsh to compete her job related surgery.

Dear Honorable City of Austin Council Members,

I am writing to inform you of an important initiative undertaken by the Austin Firefighter Association. We have recently established a Cancer Prevention Committee, which has been authorized to conduct comprehensive research on cancer among current and retired Austin firefighters.

The primary objectives of this committee include:

Research and Analysis

Our committee will investigate the history of cancer cases within our firefighting community, both active and retired. This research aims to:

- Determine the prevalence of cancer among Austin firefighters
- Identify potential occupational risk factors
- Compare our findings with national firefighter cancer statistics

Strategic Planning

Based on our findings, we will develop a strategic plan focused on:

- Cancer prevention measures
- Early detection protocols
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) testing
- Implementation of best practices in firefighter health and safety

Education and Awareness

The committee will create an education plan to:

- Inform firefighters about cancer risks associated with their profession
- Guide preventive measures and lifestyle choices
- Extend this education to firefighters' families and partners

Support Network

We recognize the importance of a strong support system for those affected by cancer. The committee will:

- Establish a peer support program for firefighters diagnosed with cancer
- Provide resources for emotional and practical assistance
- Facilitate connections with cancer support organizations

Economic Support System

Understanding the financial burden of cancer treatment, we aim to:

- Explore options for enhanced healthcare coverage
- Investigate potential partnerships with local healthcare providers
- Develop a fund to assist firefighters with cancer-related expenses

This initiative underscores our commitment to the health and well-being of Austin's firefighters. We believe that by addressing this critical issue, we can enhance the longevity and quality of life for those who dedicate themselves to protecting our community.

We look forward to sharing our progress and findings with the City Council and welcome any support or resources you may be able to provide in this crucial endeavor.

Sincerely,

Bob Nicks

President, Austin Firefighter Association