

Fallen Leaf CSD Board members and Community...

I offer the following comments regarding the renewal our fire chief Gary Gerren's contract and department operations.

Background:

I have been involved to one degree or another as a volunteer of our fire department over the last 20+ years. I was particularly active during the Chris Sauer era with my son Grant and had direct involvement in several fire incidents including the Cathedral Fire, Angora Fire, several smaller wild land fires and many smoke investigations, medical aid and search and rescue incidents. I was also on the panel (along with Chris Sauer, Jeff Landis and Dave Bunnett) who recruited and interviewed fire chief candidates and ultimately selected Gary Gerren as our fire chief some eleven years ago.

Most recently, Grant and I were at the lake (with others) and active during the Calder Fire assigned to fire boat operations and prepared to defend our community at all costs.

I offer the following perspective:

Chris Sauer was an excellent Fire Chief for the times. He effectively trained and managed a department comprised primarily of community volunteers while handicapped by an extremely small budget, antiquated equipment and secondhand gear. Under these circumstances, he did a miraculous job protecting our community. With his skills and leadership, some luck and by the grace of God, we survived those years.

The "Then vs Now" memo authored by Mike Casey and recently published and available on the CSD website is an accurate summary of the Gary Gerren era to date. I recommend that you re-read Mike's memo and take the time to comprehend how far our fire department has come under Gary's creative and tenacious leadership. Our fire boat(s), the personnel, the equipment and apparatus, full time paramedic's and our excellent reputation among the firefighting profession are just a few obvious highlights of Chief Gerren's accomplishments. None of this happened by accident...it resulted from Gary's creative and persistent pursuit of how best to protect and defend the community he has come to love and respect. Is there more to be done? Of course, there is and it is my view that Gary, in consultation with his peers in the basin and elsewhere, is capable of adapting to the needs and inevitable demands of the times.

Apparently there is controversy within the community regarding the details of Chief Gerren's contract renewal. I don't understand this. How can we objectively criticize how far the department has come in the last ten years? Who are we to second guess the proposed compensation the CSD Board has determined to be fair for the significant contribution Gary has made to our fire department and...who are we to criticize the decisions Gary has made which have bought our community the resources and safety we have all enjoyed over the last decade?

I strongly favor the renewal of Chief Gerren's contract and encourage the CSD Board of Directors to do so while also expressing the collective gratitude of the community for a job well done.

Glenn Adams