



## MEDIA RELEASE

**DATE:** May 16, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Long-term Fire Services Agreement Struck  
**STATUS:** PUBLIC –FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER** – A new 20-year term partnership was formalized between the Village of Chester Commission and the Municipality of the District of Chester (MOC) for the provision of fire services. This partnership sets the stage for future collaborations between the two organizations and is based on mutual principles of fairness, cooperation, and trust. Under this agreement, MOC has secured fire services for residents living in areas surrounding the Village of Chester, who live within the regular service area of the Chester Volunteer Fire Department. Through this agreement with the Village of Chester Commission, the Chester Volunteer Fire Department will continue to serve these residents for the next 20 years, providing long-term sustainability.

The agreement was approved by the Commission at their meeting Wednesday, and Council for MOC approved the agreement at their meeting on Thursday. Both MOC and the Commission will appoint three members each to a new committee that will provide oversight and recommendations on budget and policy. Under the new arrangement, MOC will share in ownership of the assets, which their residents have contributed to in the past.

“The Chester Volunteer Fire Department provides excellent service to the residents they serve. This partnership ensures these residents will have a voice in the delivery of the service and will also provide long-term financial stability”, said Warden Webber. “It was our mutual goal that the agreement reflected the mutual respect and trust between both parties as well as the recognition of the financial contributions of both the Village and the Municipality. I feel like we achieved that.”

Nancy Hatch, Chair of the Village of Chester Commission, was pleased that a long-term agreement was reached that will help shape the relationship in the years to come. “The Village Commission felt it was important to strengthen the relationship between the Village Commission and Municipal Council. The Chester Volunteer Fire Department provides a first-rate fire protection service. We have heard from its members that an agreement that better reflected a partnership and provided longer term financial sustainability is needed. We are happy that an agreement was reached and look forward to jointly providing governance of the service.”

The agreement is effective upon signing and selection of Committee members will take place in the coming weeks.

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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