

May 10, 2011

President Mary Sue Coleman  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI

Dear President Coleman,

As members of the University community, we are deeply concerned about the City of Ann Arbor's proposed budget which includes staffing cuts to the Ann Arbor Fire Department. As the representatives of both students and employees, we fear a serious reduction in our safety, both on and off campus. We ask that you immediately use all the political influence you have in Ann Arbor and in the State Legislature to prevent further budget cuts to the Fire Department.

The enclosure, prepared by Ann Arbor Firefighters, shows the potential impact of staffing and equipment cuts on University facilities and the lives of students and employees in those facilities. In the last twenty years:

- 3 fire trucks have been taken out of service
- the Stadium & Packard station, which serviced most of south-central campus, the UM Golf Course, the "Big House", and the many buildings and people on Kipke, was closed
- Department minimum staffing requirement was reduced from 24 to 15 fire fighters per day.

In 2011, the Department started "browning out" (closing) 1 fire station and 1 fire truck on a rotating basis. Taken together, these changes have lengthened response time, increasing the risk to University life and property, especially when Station 5, the North Campus Station owned by the University, is closed.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Ann Arbor City Council will be voting on a proposed budget that will result in further cuts in the Fire Department. We believe that the University needs to intervene to prevent further reductions in service. It would be unconscionable for the University of Michigan to stand by and allow this trend to continue. We do not want a tragedy to be the trigger for the University taking action while the ongoing safety of U of M students and employees is put at risk.

The time for decisive action is short. The Ann Arbor City Council meets on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM to adopt its new budget. In the name of the students and employees of the University, we ask that you oppose further budgetary and staffing cuts to the Fire Department.

Please let us know how you plan to respond to this situation by contacting Bonnie Halloran, LEO President at 313-282-3414 or by email at [bonnieumleo@aol.com](mailto:bonnieumleo@aol.com).

Sincerely,

Sam Montgomery

Bonnie Halloran

Gloria Peterson

President, GEO

Ken Chaves  
President, UM Skilled Trades

Gerold Avery  
Chief Steward, IUOE #324

Mike Guisinger  
SOLE

President, LEO

DeAndree Watson  
President, Central Student Government

Katie Oppenheim, BSN, RN  
Chair, UM Professional Nurse Council/MNA

President of AFSCME #1583

Enclosure/Attachment

cc: P. Hanlon  
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