



PRESS STATEMENT

WE ARE TOGETHER.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELMA, ALABAMA – May 17, 2022

Yesterday was a very productive day. We placed sunlight on the problems faced by the fire department and by doing so, we were able to form a clear path forward. The path forward includes: 1) appoint interim leadership, that being, Assistant Chief Franklin Edwards to Interim Fire Chief and Captain Walter Dailey to Interim Assistant Fire Chief; and 2) work with the fire department leadership to complete a plan that will address staff shortages, testing, battle-field promotions, station reopening, wage fairness, and work hours.

Thanks to the fire department personnel for openly speaking and willingly listening. We concluded our discussions with the understanding that, “what they want may be right, but at present, it cannot be legally done.” But if we just work together, each issue we face can be worked out. What I can ensure to Selma is, you have people who are truly committed to getting this both right and legal, and it can be done a lot easier if certain city council members stop interfering in the process.

Lesson learned: “there are some things that are right but not legal, and there are some things that are legal but not right.” The difficult work is to develop solutions that are legally, morally, and ethically right.

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