



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

TOMMY WELLS
Councilmember, Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Committee Member
Education
Transportation and the Environment
Human Services
Workforce and Community Affairs

February 25, 2014

Mayor Vincent Gray
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

(Via hand delivery)

Dear Mayor Gray:

Yesterday I chaired an oversight hearing in hopes of learning about a plan to rectify the failings of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department and restore public confidence in reliable emergency response. I was stunned to learn that your representatives have no such plan. Therefore I am calling on you to ask for the resignations of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and the Chief of the Fire/EMS Department.

This request is not based on a single incident. There is systemic mismanagement throughout the Department: From burning ambulances, uncertified fire trucks, and no procurement plan to adequately equip our fire and emergency personnel, to a shortage of paramedics, delayed response to emergencies, and poor training and management, this Department has enormous and urgent challenges to overcome.

Blaming racial divisions, union membership, or other perceived motivations for the Department's dysfunction must end. Whatever the divisions in the Department, only strong leadership, sound management, and a new culture of excellence can resolve them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tommy Wells
Councilmember, Ward 6
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety