

To: Rockville City Council

From: Rockville Fire Relief Association

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

We write this letter to propose a payment for our annual party. Prior to year of 2009 the food for this party has been paid for by the city since the beginning of our Relief Association. Since 2009 we as Relief Association have been purchasing the food for our party from our hard earned fund raising money, so we would not have to discontinue the tradition of this event.

This party provides our current and our retired members, along with their spouse's, time to sit down and have a meal together and be able to tell many stories about past and present events that have occurred. This party has always been very popular for both current and retired members and it is something that we plan to continue for many years to come.

The reason why this party means so much to all of us is, it gives us all a little peace of mind to be able to sit down with one another and enjoy a couple hours of conversation. Year after year everyone on our department sacrifices so much of our own time away from our friends and families to provide our community with top notch service. It doesn't matter what time of day it is, rain or shine. It doesn't matter if the roads are completely covered in ice or if the tornado sirens are going off, we will be responding to whatever the community will need. During these calls, our spouse's will be taking over all of the household duties that are needed to raise a family. Some days we get called upon 2-3 times and some of these calls will last several hours and in some instances could lead into a couple of days. This in return puts a large amount of stress on our families due to canceling plans that we might have had, missing our child's sporting events, or even just being able to tuck our kids into bed at night. All these things are being sacrificed simply because each and every one of us feels the need to help out people in the flip of a switch. This might seem a bit crazy for us to take on this type of burden for such a small return, but all it takes is that one call that you are able to help someone out, or even save someone's life that makes it all worthwhile. The least we can do as a department to show appreciation to our spouse's is be able to provide them with a meal once a year. After what they have to deal with, it is actually peanuts to what they actually deserve.

The payment that we are asking for from our community would be \$500.00 and would be greatly appreciated by each and every one of us. Hopefully you will take this proposal letter into consideration and be able to come to conclusion that this event is a very important part of our Fire Department. By paying for the food for all of us to sit down to eat a meal once a year means a lot to each and every one of us. We appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and hope it provides you with a better understanding on what our life as a Volunteer Fire Fighter consist of.

With Best Regards,  
Rockville Fire Relief Association