



Department of Administration
Business Operations Division

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Sharon Robinson
Director of Administration

Rhonda U. Kelsey
City Purchasing Director

May 14, 2009

Deputy Chief Darrell Moore
Milwaukee Fire Department
Bureau of Construction & Maintenance
118 West Virginia Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

Dear Deputy Chief Moore:

Thank you for responding to my request for information regarding the fire equipment unit that is being evaluated for donation by the City of Milwaukee Fire Department to Milwaukee's Sister City Morogoro, Tanzania.

As City Purchasing Director it is critical that I receive information regarding the physical condition and fiscal value of the item that is being proposed for donation. In addition, it is important that I am fully informed of any potential liability issues so that I can make an informed decision as to whether or not it would be in the City's best interest to make such a donation, as authorized in Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, Chapter 310-29.

According to your letter dated March 30, 2009, the Fire Department has determined that the original value of the fire equipment unit (VIN: 1FDYS90L3NVA19921) that has been evaluated for donation is approximately \$153,000 with an estimated surplus value of \$2,000 - \$3,500. The Fire Department has also evaluated the equipment for possible refurbishment and has determined that it would be cost-prohibitive and has made a final determination that this particular fire equipment unit is obsolete and of *no value* to the Milwaukee Fire Department and has outlived its useful life.

Although I have no specific concerns regarding potential liability issues based on receipt of the City Attorney's letter dated March 9th, 2009 that states that all potential liability could be assigned to the recipient through a transfer agreement that sets forth that the truck is donated on an "as is" basis and includes indemnification language holding the City harmless from any claims that might arise; given the fact that I received conflicting information from the Fire Department on May 13th, 2009 regarding the condition of the equipment as a matter of demonstrating good faith and strict due diligence in my analysis of making a final determination regarding this donation, I am requesting that the Fire Department disclose specific information regarding the condition of the fire equipment unit, explain its fitness for use as a firefighting apparatus, and identify the costs that are associated with any needed repairs.

In closing, upon receipt of the aforementioned information above from the Fire Department and my review and approval of the transfer agreement that sets forth that the City will not incur any costs or assume any liability regarding the transfer of the fire equipment unit, I can in good faith make a determination that as a matter of extending good will to our Sister City Morogoro, Tanzania that such a donation would be in the City's best interest.

Very truly yours,

Rhonda U. Kelsey
City Purchasing Director

c: Alderman Joe Davis
Fire Chief Douglas Holton
Assistant City Attorney, Tom Miller
Fire Dept. Finance Mgr., Emma Stamps
Legis. Ref. Bureau Analyst, Mary Turk

