

Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District



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District Officers Take Action Against Current and Former Directors & Employees for Misconduct



Joseph Washington
Chairman-President



Robert Edwards
Secretary-Treasurer

Message from District Officers

Greetings:

In this edition of our newsletter and in our effort to keep you well informed, we reveal information about misconduct of one current and two former directors of the district as well as members of the district's staff. We take our responsibility to protect your tax dollars seriously, and we shall take action to assure that no wrongdoing goes unpunished.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Washington
President

Robert Edwards
Secretary-Treasurer

Current Board Member, Bob Lee, and Ex-Board Members, Quinlisk and Kessler, Use District Funds to Pay Their Criminal Defense Attorneys Fees

A review of expenditures from the Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District's checking account turned up checks written to the criminal defense attorneys of one current and two former members of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District. Minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire District show that Robert "Bob" Lee, a current member of the Board, voted to pay the Kierman Law Firm \$1,019.74, for criminal defense work provided by Pat Kierman to Lee in connection with an FBI and Federal Grand Jury investigation into possible misappropriation of District funds by some Board members. In addition, a \$2,500 check was written on March 13, 2007, to Neil J. Bruntrager, the criminal defense attorney of Brian Quinlisk. Quinlisk, who was a member of the Board at the time the check was written to Bruntrager, was also the subject of the Grand Jury and FBI probe. Quinlisk personally signed the check to Bruntrager as Treasurer of the Board. Finally, a check dated February 27, 2007 in the sum of \$1,085.00 was written to J. Christian Goeke, the criminal defense attorney of a former Board member, Roy Kessler, who too was the subject of that same FBI and Grand Jury probe of Lee, Quinlisk and Kessler's expenditure of district funds in 2004.



Brian Quinlisk

"It goes beyond belief," said Robert Edwards, District Treasurer, "that anyone would think that they could use the very fire district funds that they have been alleged to have misused to pay for a criminal defense attorney to defend him against those allegations. District President Joe Washington pointed out that the new Board majority began an investigation into the payments made to those three criminal defense attorneys when two of them sent bills to be paid to the Fire District's administrative offices in May, 2007. Bob Lee, when initially challenged about the payments denied that Kierman was his personal attorney. Kierman's bill, paid by the district, clearly states that it is for work Lee in connection with a grand jury probe. A Special Prosecutor, Atty. Bernard Edwards, has been employed by the Board to pursue this matter in the courts.

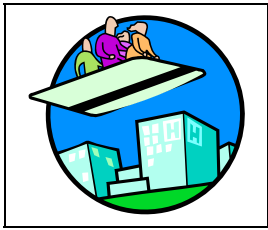
Board suspends male firefighter for sexual harassment of female nurses – also uncovers his failure to properly document use of controlled substances



A report of sexual harassment of nurses by a Northeast Ambulance & paramedic has resulted in suspension of the paramedic from his position with the fire district. The paramedic was serving as the Chief Paramedic and as such was responsible for assuring that the district complied with all federal, state and local laws pertaining to accounting for the use of controlled substances in providing advanced life support services to persons in need of emergency medical services. His suspension has led to further investigation into his services as Chief Paramedic and revealed his failure to properly account for those controlled substances in violation of federal and state laws. It was reported that he inappropriately touched a nurse after arriving at the emergency room with a patient. Despite being warned about his behavior, it was again reported that he inappropriately touched another nurse on a later date. Not having heeded the warning, he was suspended by the Board pending a full investigation.

Board suspends firefighters for misuse of credit cards

The Board of Directors voted to suspend two Deputy Chiefs for obtaining credit cards without authorization of the Board. Three credit cards were issued on the credit of the fire district but in the personal names of three firefighters, two deputy chiefs and one captain. Each of the credit cards were issued with Twenty-five thousand dollar (\$25,000.00) lines of credit despite the fact that state law limits spending in the district to no more than Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) without competitive bidding. One of the Deputy Chiefs, who was serving as Acting Fire Chief, secured the three cards without specific authorization of the Fire Board as a Visa Card sponsored by Home Depot. In addition to securing these



credit cards without authorization, the Acting Chief along with a Deputy Chief to whom he had turned over one of the cards made purchases without authorization of the Board and furthermore failed to identify the items purchased and to account for the items in the district's inventory. The Board suspended the two Deputy Chief's without pay pending a full investigation into the matter. The Captain was found to have been innocent of any misuse of the credit card and simply received the card from the Acting Fire Chief without knowledge that the Board had not authorized the issuance of the card. The Captain also had not used the card to make any purchases.

Board Uncovers Use of Fire District Name and Address by Quinlisk Campaign Supporters to Evade Sales Taxes

The Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District Board of Directors voted to refer to the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Missouri Department of Revenue and the St. Louis County Prosecutor evidence that the Normandy Firefighters Campaign Committee used the old name of the Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District, Normandy Fire Protection District, and its address in order to evade the payment of sales taxes on expenditures made in support of Brian Quinlisk, a former member of the board, when Quinlisk sought re-election to the Board in April of this year.



An invoice for the purchase of T-shirts used in Quinlisk's election was found in the administrative offices of the fire district. The invoice was billed to the Fire District at its address in Pasadena Hills. The invoice shows that the T-Shirts were ordered by a firefighter who at the time was employed by the fire district and who serves as Treasurer of the Normandy Firefighters Campaign Committee that supported Quinlisk in his failed re-election bid. The invoice indicates that the T-shirt purchase was exempt from sales taxes due to the fact that it was billed to the Fire District at its administrative offices. Campaign disclosure reports filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission on April 3rd report that the T-Shirts were paid for by the Normandy Firefighters Campaign Committee on March 30th. Those same campaign disclosure reports state that a fire district firefighter is the Treasurer of that committee and that he, along with nineteen other District firefighters, each contributed \$300 or an aggregate of \$5,700 to the campaign committee in their failed effort to get Quinlisk re-elected to the Board.

The misuse of the district's sales tax exemption was not only turned over to the prosecutorial authorities but was also the basis of a disciplinary hearing scheduled before the board. The offending firefighter's employment has since been terminated by the board. The board is waiting for the State Department of Revenue to complete its investigation of the matter.

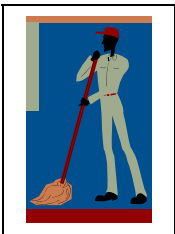
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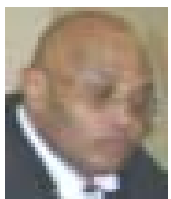
New Board Majority Vows to Clean Up Fire District Abuses



An investigation of a citizens committee chronicled abuses in the Fire Districts in St Louis County, including the Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District. Among the many abuses identified by the committee was the overpayment of then Board President Brian Quinlisk's salary. The Board at that time was composed of Quinlisk, Roy Kessler and Robert "Bob" Lee. Kessler and Lee approved the excess payments to Quinlisk in violation of Missouri laws fixing the compensation of Fire Board

Directors. The taxpayers and voters of the Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District decided to do something about it first by electing Joseph (Joe) Washington over Kessler to the Board in April, 2005 and then by voting for Robert Edwards and ousting Quinlisk from the Board in April, 2007. Washington and Edwards are determined to clean up the abuses and misuse of Fire District funds by Lee, Quinlisk and Kessler. For further information on the effort undertaken by Washington and Edwards to clean up the district, please read the Articles on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

Director Lee Costs District Half Million Dollars in Lost Interest on Bank Deposits – Caught Using District Copier for Personal Business



Lee –
caught in
the act

Bob Lee has been on the Board for nine years. During that time he has served as Treasurer and as President of the Board. As Treasurer and President he was responsible for deposit of district funds at banks. He had on deposit



Lee -lost
for words

district funds in excess of One Million Dollars at Royal Banks earning interest at less than one percent per year. Directors Washington and Edwards moved those funds to Truman Bank, which is located in the district and they now earn over five per cent per annum. The result is that the district now earns \$50,000 per year in interest instead of \$1,000. In ten years time at \$50,000 per year the district, lost about \$500,000 in interest on those bank accounts. It was also discovered that Lee was using the district's copier for his personal business.