

Scheele, Andrea

From: Joanna Kerber <joanna@iaff27.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 8:08 AM
To: Scheele, Andrea
Cc: Stuart, Kenneth
Subject: PSCSC Rule 10.03 Testimony
Attachments: 2023.12.13 PSCSC Kenny Stuart IAFF Local 27.pdf

CAUTION: External Email

PSCSC Commissioners and Executive Director Scheele,

Please see attached letter from President Kenny Stuart, Seattle Fire Fighters Union regarding PSCSC Rule 10.03 Testimony.

Regards,

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December 13, 2023

PSCSC Commissioners and Executive Director Scheele,

My name is Kenny Stuart. I am a Lieutenant of the Seattle Fire Department serving the people of Seattle and the President of Seattle Fire Fighters Union, IAFF Local 27 serving the more than 1,000 fire fighters, officers, and paramedics of the department. I am speaking today on behalf of Local 27, but also to benefit the public that we serve as first responders.

I urge the PSCSC to approve the proposed amendments and revise PSCSC Rule 10.03 as proposed. These amendments will expand the eligibility for reinstatement to include all employees who have separated from the department, excepting any employees who were discharged for disciplinary reasons. By doing so the commission will allow former fire fighters who were trained, experienced, and valued members to be considered for reinstatement. As the commission is surely aware, the Seattle Fire Department is still experiencing a staffing shortage and its efforts to hire enough employees has fallen short of our needs. In addition, more than half of our department has less than 5 years on the job. While these members are excellent and well-trained fire fighters, there is no substitute for experience. Retaining experienced fire fighters is extremely important for the critical, lifesaving services that we provide, as well as for fire fighter safety. Local 27 has advocated for this change since 2021 when the City of Seattle implemented the COVID Mandate.

These amendments will address an unfortunate policy that needs to change. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of Seattle Fire Fighters.

Respectfully,

Kenny Stuart
President, Seattle Fire Fighters Union
IAFF Local 27
Lieutenant, Ladder 8 Seattle Fire Department

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