

Mescal-J6 Fire District Governing Board
Call to the Public
Sept. 28, 2022

On July 7, 2022, I received an email from Chief Moran with several attachments of public records I had requested as early as Dec. 2021.

I am most concerned with the Chief's responses that the requested documents do not exist relevant to the current practices of the Fire District. The Chief's responses are underlined below.

A. "I am requesting records to show which vehicles are current OUT OF SERVICE, date removed, and description of issue. This should also include the newly purchased engine if it has not been placed in service to date. We do not create records regarding vehicles that are out of service. Information related to OOS vehicles is provided to the board in my monthly chief report."

B. "An Invoice or Billing Statement/~~document~~ payment-request for transaction dated October 20, 2021, Warrant 74001092 written on 10/20/2021(for \$2,500) to the Mescal Firefighters Association with Memo: Payment of Payroll Dues (1 year). Requested documents do not exist. This transaction was suggested by our accounting firm and approved by me via a simple telephone call from our accountant.

C. "A Copy of Policy, Procedure, Agreement, providing explanation and authorization for payment 74001092. Records, to the best of my knowledge, do not exist." The Chief went on to explain the practice started before he arrived at the District in 2015 and he has not been able to find relevant documents.

We have difficulty accepting that for nearly 7 years the District has deducted "dues" from firefighter paychecks and made periodic payments during those years to the Association without a written policy/procedure being in place. What other documentation for Warrant 7400192 needs to be in place - is there documentation that specifies each pay period that dues were deducted for each firefighter? Is there a signed permission slip for each year? Is there documentation that supports the sporadic payment, no annual payment for several of these years?

Please schedule a review by the Governing Board to determine if the continued practice of minimal documentation in the cases above increases the liability risk of the District and if increased documentation needs to be implemented.

Sincerely, Mary McCool, J-6/Mescal CDO