TO: Mr. Reggie Roe, DeSoto Parish Police Jury President

CONCERNING: Emergency Communications Process for DeSoto Parish

DATE: January 24, 2019

Mr. President and Jury Members,

As Police Jury Members, you have been given the trust of your constituents to insure they have the best DeSoto Parish has to offer. By electing you, your constituents have given you a voice by which to represent them. The Fire Chiefs have been given a voice to insure the men and women under their command has the safest environment and the appropriate equipment so each of them can return home to their families at the end of each shift. Each Fire Chief also has a responsibility to serve the residents and businesses within their respective districts and provide the fastest response time possible and handle any given emergency placed upon them. These shared responsibilities have ultimately brought us to the current situation.

Multiple past attempts have led only to various grievances and conflicts of opinion. This letter is not in-regards to any negative event or grievance which may have occurred prior to 2018. The Fire Chiefs wish collectively, only to move forward from the all-parish agency talks which began in 2018. Progress was being shared by all entities involved, but progress suddenly came to a halt. This halt in progress led to a meeting with the Police Jury in which all DeSoto Parish Fire Districts and DeSoto Parish EMS were represented. Talks then continued but were suddenly halted again per DeSoto Parish 911 Administration, for unknown reasons. During a DeSoto Parish EMS Board Meeting, in which the newly elected DeSoto Parish Sherriff, the DeSoto Parish 911 Administration, five Police Jury representatives, and numerous 911 Board Members were present, talks were once again to be resumed. On January 14, 2019, the 911 Administrator and Mr. Phillip Daniels, while on speaker phone, contacted Fire Chief Rusty Canton. During that conversation Mr Vanderhoven said his personal opinion was, "Fire Dispatchers should be placed under the Sheriff's Department in order to better streamline the dispatch process and better serve the residents of the parish." The next day DPSO was to address the aforementioned topic with the 911 Board, but was taken off the agenda. As of the writing of this letter talks have been halted three separate times. Each halting was induced by the 911 Administration for unknown reasons.

The DeSoto Parish Fire Chief's met on Monday, January 21`, 2019 and the breakdown of communication with the 911 Administration was a topic of discussion. The fact that communication has been halted solely by the 911 Administration three times, while the majority of other parish entities were, and remain, open to continuing to work together towards better parish wide communications, has led to the following unanimous opinion validated by verbal confirmation:

The DeSoto Parish Fire District Fire Chief's have no confidence in the 911 Administrator Bruce Vanderhoven for failing to keep communication open for bringing all public safety and emergency communication dispatchers into the newly constructed 911 building in order to benefit from the various

assets each agency has to offer (Personnel, CAD System, radio frequencies, and communication equipment), and streamline the dispatch process.

This decision has not been constructed lightly and careful thought has been given.

DeSoto Parish Fire District 1

1-28-19

Chief Rusty Canton

DeSoto Parish Fire District 2

1-28-19

Chief Noel Tucker

DeSoto Parish Fire District 3

1-28-19

Chief David Jenkins

DeSoto Parish Fire District 5

1-28-19

Chief Todd Kreamer

DeSoto Parish Fire District 8

1-28-19

Chief Bill DeLoach

DeSoto Parish Fire District 9

Chief Bobby Hayes