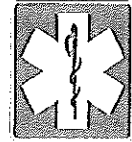




FRIENDSHIP FIRE COMPANY

*P.O. Box 126
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Phone: 304-535-2211
Fax: 304-535-1382
Email: friendship10@comcast.net*



To: JCESA Director / Doug Pittinger

From: Chris Higdon / President 1

Subject: Funding

Date: February 11, 2015

CC: JCESA Board

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Friendship Fire Company has been working hard on the many financial issues that lie ahead. You should have under and email from Candy, received our financial report regarding the revenue share issue.

Friendship Fire Company intends to fully comply with the revenue sharing efforts. We believe that there may be instances where there is no revenue to be shared at all, and then there will be those times that there may be the opportunity to assist in a revenue sharing process. All of the numbers submitted on the spreadsheet are actual numbers in relation to Friendships cost burden to provide Emergency medical Services. As a company that rarely if ever creates controversy and works well amongst the County Commission and the JCESA, I find it prudent to clarify the fact that our numbers are "true", as I am also aware that a JCESA Board Member has made a false claim that the Fire Departments are lying about our financial information. We are NOT.

Friendship is also in receipt of the recent memo that has requested some detailed financial information in order to receive any financial disbursement. Please allow this memo to serve as official notification that we will also comply with this request to the best of our ability.

All of our financial numbers for the past year is currently under preparation at our Certified Public Account's office. Once completed, we will provide that information the JCESA as requested, in hopes of being deemed compliant, and deserving of some financial assistance from the available funding for disbursement. I do fear however that our packet and full report will not be ready by or before March 1st, 2015 as requested. However, once the report is completed, we will expedite the process of getting the information to you. We are expecting delivery end of March or early April.

Friendship understands the budget obstacles that lie before all of us at this time. We do our best to construct our operating budget, large purchases, etc. around the expectation of potential setbacks. It is simply the world we live in regardless of "whose fault it is". PLEASE...do not push forward a budget request for Friendship Fire Company in the amount of \$125K. While this money would be wisely used and would be used on a variety of costs...the fact is that we do not REQUIRE that budget amount to remain operational or successful.

Rather, Friendship Fire Company can be successful by remaining flat on our disbursement from last year of \$53K. In fact, Friendship is also willing...although it would make fiscal management more difficult...to take a 10% reduction of that \$53K and be acceptable of a disbursement of \$47,700.00.

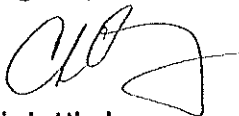
We follow all the rules set before us in previous years in regards to financial disclosure. In fact, we also have a separate account established specifically for the funding that comes from the county and follow the rules regarding the use of that county funding as set forth by the JCESA in years past. Those funds are being used to assist us in making a payment on our new Brush and Wild Land unit due for livery in late February. Significant reduction in the County disbursement would "hit us hard" in the remaining operational expenses.

We feel that by playing by the rules, and continuing to be a partner with the JCESA and the County Commissioner's, that we should perhaps be the recipients of the requested County funding. I respectfully request for fair and justified consideration in this request.

Friendship appreciates the current budget efficiencies being implemented throughout the county. We will continue to remain as flexible as possible and continue to work with the JCESA Board as we move forward throughout the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Candy Davidson at any time there is a question, concern or you require simple clarification on something. Our lines of communication will remain open. We look forward to building a stronger working relationship with the JCESA Board, and hope that feeling is reciprocated.

Regards,



Chris Higdon

President

Friendship Fire Company

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

304-535-2211

Impact Fee Status Report

January 2015

Office of Impact Fees

Summary

Date Range: Thursday 1 through Saturday 31 January 2015

Report Date: 4 February 2015

Process Number Range: 1500001 - 1500020

Total Applications: 20

Total Non-Exempt: 19

Of which:

Commercial: 0

Residential: 19

Of which:

County: 10

Municipal: 9

Total Exempt: 1

Of which:

Commercial: 0

Residential: 1

Of which:

County: 1

Municipal: 0

Tables 1 through 7 summarize impact fee processing for January 2015. Table 8 represents account totals, pending the transfer of fees collected as shown in Table 1, including General Impact Fee Account (3111776) interest which is listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Form 100 Tallies

	Exempt	Commercial	Residential	Total
1 – 31 January 2015	1	0	19	20
Fees collected		\$0.00	\$239,698.00	\$239,698.00
<i>Of which</i>				
School Impact Fee			\$210,350.00	\$210,350.00
Law Enforcement Fee		\$0.00	\$2,494.00	\$2,494.00
Parks & Recreation Fee			\$13,927.00	\$13,927.00
Fire & EMS Fee		\$0.00	\$12,927.00	\$12,927.00

Table 2. Financial Data – Office of Impact Fees General Account (3111776)

Description	Amount
Opening Statement Balance (1 January 2015)	\$123,293.92
January Deposits (1 – 31 January 2015)	\$239,698.00
School Dec. Transactions (withdraws via transfer on 15 January 2015)	(\$108,024.40)
Law Dec. Transactions (withdraws via transfer on 15 January 2015)	(\$1,448.46)
Parks & Rec Dec. Trans. (withdraws via transfer on 15 January 2015)	(\$7,168.76)
Fire & EMS Dec. Trans. (withdraws via transfer on 15 January 2015)	(\$6,652.30)
Interest Earned (31 January 2015)	\$64.67
Ending Statement Balance (31 January 2015)	\$239,762.67
<i>Outstanding Credits (deposits through 1 February 2015)</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

Table 3. Financial Data – School Impact Fee Account (3107582)

Description	Amount
Opening Balance (1 January 2015)	\$1,202,443.11
December Transactions (deposits via transfer on 15 January 2015)	\$108,024.40
Interest Earned (31 January 2015)	\$535.79
Ending Balance (31 January 2015)	\$1,311,003.30

Table 4. Financial Data – Law Enforcement Impact Fee Account (3120120)

Description	Amount
Opening Balance (1 January 2015)	\$41,176.10
December Transactions (deposits via transfer on 15 January 2015)	\$1,448.46
Interest Earned (31 January 2015)	\$17.83
Ending Balance (31 January 2015)	\$42,642.39

Table 5. Financial Data – Parks & Recreation Impact Fee Account (3122808)

Description	Amount
Opening Balance (1 January 2015)	\$478,716.14
December Transactions (deposits via transfer on 15 January 2015)	\$7,168.76
Interest Earned (31 January 2015)	\$204.96
Ending Balance (31 January 2015)	\$486,089.86

Table 6. Financial Data – Fire & EMS Impact Fee Account (3122816)

Description	Amount
Opening Balance (1 January 2015)	\$114,482.68
December Transactions (deposits via transfer on 15 January 2015)	\$6,652.30
Interest Earned (31 January 2015)	\$50.16
Ending Balance (31 January 2015)	\$121,185.14

Table 7. Total Impact Fees as of 1 February 2015 /1

Description	Amount
Office of Impact Fees General Account	\$239,762.67
School Impact Fee Account	\$1,311,003.30
Law Enforcement Fee Account	\$42,642.39
Parks & Recreation Impact Fee Account	\$486,089.86
Fire & EMS Impact Fee Account	\$121,185.14
Total Impact Fees	\$2,200,683.36

/1 These values represent both impact fees collected and interest earned. The general account includes the outstanding credits listed in table 2 and outstanding debits, if any, listed in tables 3-6.

Table 8. Pending February 2015 Fee Transfers /1

Account	31 Jan. 2015 Account Totals	Pending Impact Fee Transfers	Account Totals
School Impact Fee Account	\$1,311,003.30	\$210,406.91	\$1,521,410.21
Law Enforcement Fee Account	\$42,642.39	\$2,494.65	\$45,137.04
Parks & Recreation Impact Fee Account	\$486,089.86	\$13,930.88	\$500,020.74
Fire & EMS Impact Fee Account	\$121,185.14	\$12,930.23	\$134,115.37
Total Impact Fees	\$1,960,920.69	\$239,762.67	\$2,200,683.36

/1 This table represents each of the impact fee category account totals as of 31 January 2015 listed in tables 3 – 6. Pending fee transfer amounts, excluding interest and any outstanding credits, collected in January 2015 are listed in table 1 of the General Account (3111776); these transactions will be processed in February 2015. Any outstanding credits, as listed in table 2, will be added to the next month's Impact Fee transfer amounts.

Form 100 Transaction Summary

Jefferson County Government – Office of Impact Fees

Impact Fee Applications Processed between dates Thursday through Saturday 31 January 2015

1500017	01/28/2015	Wolfe	William	06 Kabletown	1149	412	13A	11	\$0.00	01/28/2015	Form 200
Category Count: 1											
Category Total											
										\$0.00	

1500001	01/05/2015	Ciriello	Jeanne	02 Charles Town	953	334	3	4	\$6,796.00	01/05/2015	Form 260
1500002	01/07/2015	K Hovnanian		03 Charles Town	1095	342	11B	298	\$12,808.00	01/07/2015	N/A
1500003	01/07/2015	K Hovnanian		03 Charles Town	1095	342	11B	143	\$12,808.00	01/07/2015	N/A
1500004	01/07/2015	Wormald, Jr.	Robert	04 Harpers Ferry	975	635	10A	102	\$13,070.00	01/07/2015	N/A
1500005	01/08/2015	K Hovnanian		03 Charles Town	1095	342	11B	145	\$12,808.00	01/08/2015	N/A
1500006	01/08/2015	Dan Ryan		04 Harpers Ferry	1139	541	9D	36	\$13,070.00	01/08/2015	N/A
1500007	01/08/2015	Dan Ryan		04 Harpers Ferry	1129	541	9D	106	\$13,070.00	01/08/2015	N/A
1500008	01/08/2015	Dan Ryan		09 Shepherdstown	1130	583	7	1.20	\$13,070.00	01/08/2015	N/A
1500009	01/20/2015	Dan Ryan		04 Harpers Ferry	1129	541	9D	35	\$13,070.00	01/20/2015	N/A
1500010	01/20/2015	Dan Ryan		08 Ranson Corp			8C	227	\$12,808.00	01/20/2015	N/A
1500011	01/20/2015	Carter	Ryan and Jessica	06 Kabletown	1147	698	23A	40	\$13,070.00	01/20/2015	N/A
1500012	01/28/2015	Charles	Ryan Homes	08 Ranson Corp	982	137	8D	7G	\$12,808.00	01/28/2015	N/A
1500013	01/28/2015	Charles	Ryan Homes	08 Ranson Corp	982	137	8D	15G	\$12,808.00	01/28/2015	N/A
1500014	01/28/2015	Wormald, Jr.	Robert	04 Harpers Ferry	975	635	10A	102	\$13,070.00	01/28/2015	N/A
1500015	01/28/2015	Dan Ryan		09 Shepherdstown	1130	583	7	1.4	\$13,070.00	01/28/2015	N/A
1500016	01/28/2015	Dan Ryan		09 Shepherdstown	1119	20	7	1.23	\$13,070.00	01/28/2015	N/A
1500018	01/29/2015	K Hovnanian		03 Charles Town	1095	342	11B	293	\$12,808.00	01/29/2015	N/A
1500019	01/29/2015	K Hovnanian		03 Charles Town	1095	342	11B	341	\$12,808.00	01/29/2015	N/A
1500020	01/29/2015	K Hovnanian		03 Charles Town	1095	342	11B	292	\$12,808.00	01/29/2015	N/A

Category Count: 19	Category Total	\$239,698.00
TOTAL APPLICATIONS: 20		Grand Total
		\$239,698.00

January 26, 2015

The following is a summary of the EMS Service providers in Jefferson County WV. The information was taken from the WV CIS, 1/5/2015, Department of Health. CIS is the official web site that shows the providers who are certified to provide patient care. Vehicle operators and aides are also listed, but may not provide patient care per the WV protocols. The names are provided to the state by the various departments. It is possible that a person may be listed on two or more departments.

Column 1 is the number on the CIS roster.

Column 2 is the EMT's with current certification

Column 3 is the paramedics with current certification

Column 4 is the number of JCESA employees (could be either EMT's or paramedics)

Column 5 is the percentage of calls that the company used the assistance of JCESA employees.

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Co. 1 – Friendship FD	48	16	4	3	49%
Co. 2 – Citizens FD	40	14	6	6	46%
Co. 3 – Shepherdstown FD	94	27	15	4	57%
Co. 4 – Independent FD	40	16	8	7	54%
Co. 5 – Blue Ridge Mountain FD	43	15	16	23	61%
Co. 6 – Middleway FD	16	5	1	1	58%
Co. 7 – Bakerton FD					
Co. 11 – JCESA	29	9	19		

Note: Co. 7 is currently operating under the Shepherdstown FD EMS license . They have one ambulance at present and are taking steps to get their own state certification. The data is not available as they went into EMS service in September of 2014.

Note: This reports shows that only by a joint effort with the Volunteer Companies and the JCESA are the citizens and guests of Jefferson County able to receive emergency medical services that meet or exceed the standards as defined by the State of WV and others.

Because of the state requirements for EMS licenses, a person may be listed on a company roster as an affiliated member. JCESA employees may be listed in that manner, or be an active member of a volunteer department.

Prepared by : R. M. Kelley, RN/Paramedic, Member of SFD and the JCESA Board of Directors.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING
CARD PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

Agreement, made and entered effective as of this 1st day of February, 2015, by and between the Local Government Purchasing Card Program, a division of the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, (hereinafter called the "Division") and Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, a local government entity and political subdivision of the State, (hereinafter called "Entity");

Whereas, pursuant to W. Va. Code § 6-9-2a *et seq.*, the Auditor is authorized to administer a Local Government Purchasing Card Program for local entities, (hereinafter called the "Program") so that procedures and controls for the procurement and payment of goods and services are made more efficient and so that the accounting and reporting of such payments shall be uniform.

Whereas, the Entity desires to participate in the Program, under the procedures and controls set forth by the Auditor, in order to take advantage of the efficiencies and rebate sharing provisions provided by the Program.

Whereas, the Division has entered into a contract pursuant to the authority granted by West Virginia Code § 6-9-2a with a bank (hereinafter called the "Vendor"), to provide purchasing card services to the Program. For purposes of this Agreement the term "Vendor Contract" as used herein, shall mean any

written contract now or hereafter entered into between the Division and a Vendor pursuant to the above-referenced code section.

Now, Therefore, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual promises and agreements set forth herein, the Division and the Entity, with the intent of being legally bound, do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. The Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency shall be issued purchasing cards in accordance with the needs of the Entity as communicated by the Entity and as approved by the Division. The cards will be issued in the name of designated local government employees.

2. Entity understands that its eligibility to participate in the Program and the use of any purchasing cards issued pursuant thereto shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Vendor Contract that is in effect at the time of such use and to the rules, policies and procedures established by the Division to govern the Program. Entity agrees to follow the rules, policies and procedures set forth therein.

3. Entity shall pay all valid bills presented by the Vendor in a timely manner. Entity understands that the Vendor will bill on a monthly basis and that bills will be available in electronic format as well as hard copy, and will be mailed to the address on file for each master billing account and cardholder account.

4. Entity shall make all purchasing card payments directly to the Vendor within twenty-five (25) successive, calendar days after the billing cutoff on a standard monthly payment cycle. The Program Director will determine the most effective manner in which payments shall be submitted by the Entity.

5. The Auditor and the Division shall, immediately and without the necessity of giving any notice to Entity, have the right to offset the amount of any unpaid, past-due billing invoice, together with interest and penalties accrued thereon, against any state funding source except school aid funding provided pursuant to § 18a-9a-1 *et. seq.* Offset will apply against any other funding source, including but not limited to public utility funds, payable pursuant to § 11-66-1 *et. seq.* and §11-6-1 *et. seq.*, rebate funds payable pursuant to § 6-9-2b, and any other funds due the Entity from the State in the event the Entity's purchasing card bill remains unpaid sixty (60) days after the end of the billing cycle. The offset amount will include the full amount of any such unpaid and past due invoice owed the Vendor and any interest authorized by law as well as any late penalty authorized by this Agreement.

6. The Division will periodically pay the Entity a proportional amount of the rebate that the Division receives from the Vendor based upon the aggregate net volume of purchases made by the Entity during the standard payment cycle (hereinafter called the "local share"). The local share will be paid by the Program thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter. The local share rebate calculation is set forth in Attachment A and is subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein as well as any limitations, changes, additions, or deletions that may from time to time occur and affect rebate provisions in the current Vendor contract and/or any subsequent Vendor contract entered into by the Division. Any such changes affecting vendor rebate provisions shall trigger the Program's right to recalculation of the local share.

7. The Division shall assess a late payment penalty against Entity of Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency if Entity fails to timely pay any Vendor bills as and when due as provided by this Agreement. The penalty amount shall immediately accrue to the Division upon Entity's failure to comply with such requirements and shall be collected pursuant to the offset provisions set forth herein.

8. Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency acknowledges that it may only utilize the purchasing card for those payments and purchases authorized by law, and covenants and agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Auditor and the Division harmless for any and all illegal, fraudulent or unauthorized use thereof.

In Witness Whereof, the parties have caused their respective signatures to be affixed hereto by their duly authorized representatives, effective as of the date first written above.

Local Government Purchasing Card Division

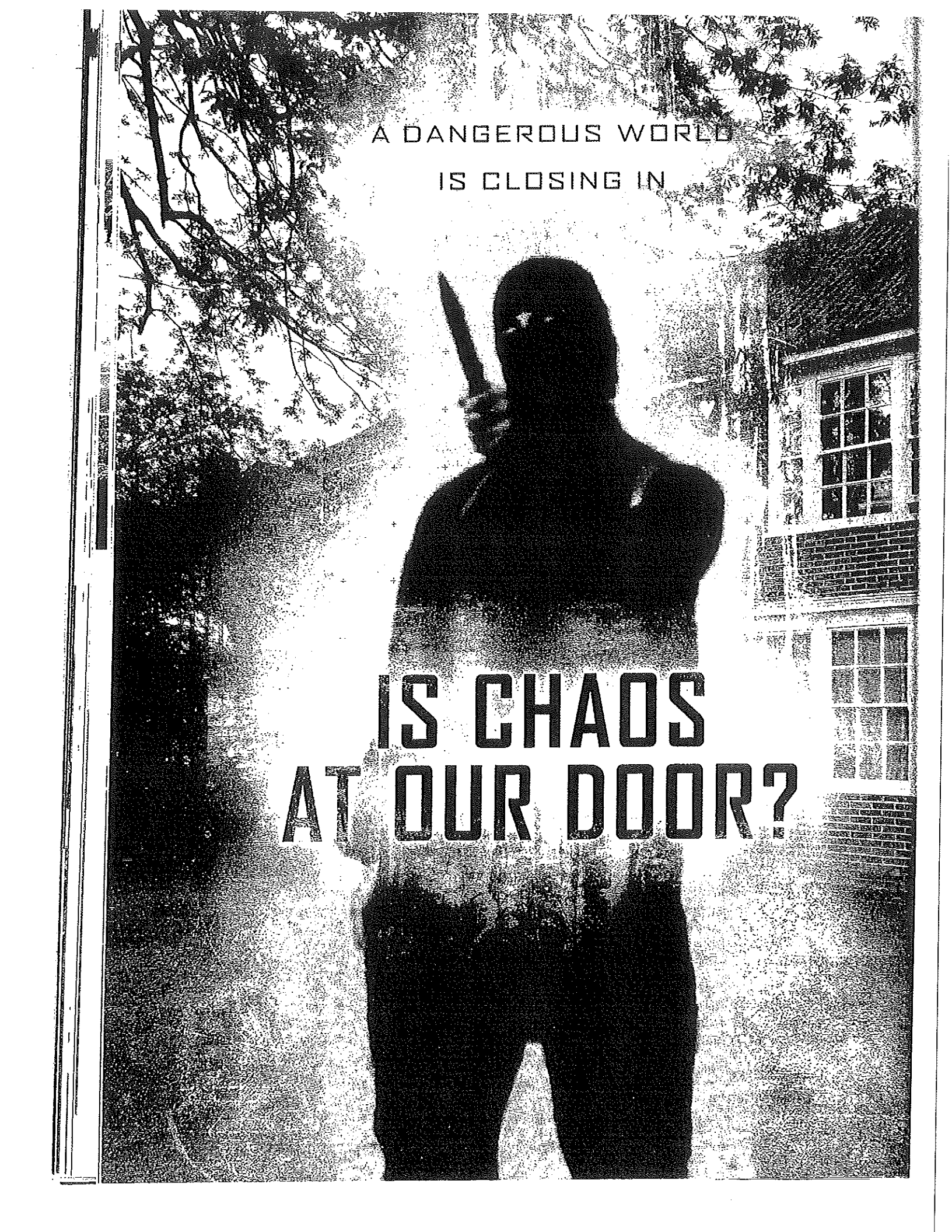
By: _____

Its: _____

Local Government Entity

By: _____

Its: _____



A DANGEROUS WORLD
IS CLOSING IN

IS CHAOS
AT OUR DOOR?



by WAYNE LAPIERRE, NRA Executive Vice President

race yourself. You won't hear about this from the mainstream media. And very few politicians dare to discuss these things openly.

But the reality is that we may be living in some of the most dangerous times in human

history. Does that sound like some crazy exaggeration to you? Well, consider this:

Recently, in *The Wall Street Journal*, former CIA Director James Woolsey warned that "the most significant threat to the U.S. in the world" is the threat of catastrophe caused by an electromagnetic pulse, or EMP. And that danger appears to loom larger every year.

What is an electromagnetic pulse? It can be triggered by a massive solar storm, or set off by detonation of a nuclear device hundreds of miles above the earth. Even if no blast, shock or fallout reaches the ground, the cascading avalanche of infrastructure failures caused by an EMP can create a national catastrophe.

"... THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE U.S. IN THE WORLD ..."

Former CIA Director JAMES WOOLSEY, 8/12/2014

Because an EMP, like an astronomical bolt of lightning, destroys the electronic equipment upon which so much of modern life is built.

In the short term, EMP drowns out radio transmissions—everything from radio, TV and cell phones, to air-defense radar systems, to police, fire and EMS frequencies.

Most importantly, over a much longer timeframe, an EMP blacks out the power grid, slamming it with so much voltage—and slagging so many transformers when it does—that it could plunge much of the continental U.S. into darkness and chaos lasting for months, if not years.

Collapse of the power grid, in turn, would have a domino effect on the infrastructures Americans depend on most for survival. Landline telephone systems would fall silent. Cell phone towers would go black—even if you had a way to charge your phone.

An EMP would flatline the Internet and paralyze all the vital signals the Internet carries: Military command and

control, our banking and financial system, gas pipeline and power plant safeguards, hospital and emergency response communications.

And it would pull the plug on public water and sewage services—perhaps our most urgent and immediate life-support systems of all.

This isn't some feverish, paranoid fantasy. It's not some fabrication from "Doomsday Preppers."

It's the kind of scenario that the most informed national security experts in the country—military commanders, emergency response planners and scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories and the Hoover Institution—have been warning politicians about with increasing urgency for more than a decade.

As recently declassified reports from these experts on the congressional EMP Commission make clear:

• "China and Russia have considered limited nuclear-attack options that employ EMP as the primary or sole means of attack"

• "Designs for variants of such weapons may have been illicitly trafficked for a quarter century."

• In 2004, Russian military officials warned U.S. government investigators that North Korea's military had recruited Russian scientists to develop nuclear EMP weapons.

• "Terrorists or state actors that possess relatively unsophisticated missiles armed with nuclear weapons may well calculate that ... they may gain the greatest political-military utility from ... an EMP attack."

Yet, while the media *should be* alerting the public to this danger, and our nation's leaders *should be* setting up systems to protect us—instead, we get adolescent media gossip about the latest celebrity tweet.

Imagine your world blanketed by pitch black. You have no lights, no electricity. Phones don't work. Even the battery-powered radio you keep for emergencies picks up nothing but static—if it powers up at all.

Transportation grinds to gridlock as soon as everyone's gas tank runs dry—even if their cars' computer chips aren't ruined by the EMP. Fuel shipments dry up as energy companies struggle to jump-start their pipelines and refineries. Food shipments stop.

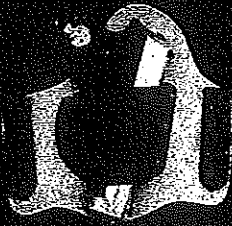
In many ways, our nation would be plunged back into the 1800s. Without clean water or sanitation, Third World diseases would re-emerge—amoebic dysentery, typhoid, cholera—killing our youngest and frailest family members. Hospitals would be overwhelmed.

Remember the horrific scenes you saw from Hurricane

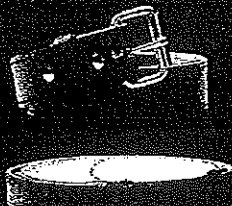


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Katrina or the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Then magnify those calamities to a national scale and lengthen them from weeks to many months.

If this all sounds inconceivable to you, again, consider the findings of the government's own congressional EMP Commission. According to their report, within a year of a national blackout, as much as 90 percent of the population of the U.S. could die due to starvation, disease and the collapse of civilization as we know it.

Now, that might be too terrifying to even comprehend. But an EMP attack is far from the only way of wreaking havoc on America's infrastructure or blacking out our power grid.

Cyber attacks through the Internet, for example, are a new and growing danger to our nation's most sensitive government, military and financial operations. Many experts worry that they could shut down our nation's financial system, locking up bank accounts, freezing credit cards and putting our economy into a tailspin.

Worse, according to 9/11 Commission Chairman Tom Kean, the danger of cyber terror is even more immediate and deadly. "Hackers can threaten the control systems of critical facilities like dams, water-treatment plants and the power grid," Kean wrote recently in *The Wall Street Journal*. "A hacker able to remotely control a dam, pumping station or oil pipeline could unleash large-scale devastation."

Terrorists could deliver a knockout punch with more conventional means as well.

Last year, in what the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Jon Wellinghoff, called "the most significant incident of domestic terrorism involving the grid that has ever occurred," unknown individuals used rifles to disable 17 tremendous electrical transformers near San Jose, Calif.

It took technicians almost a month to get the facility back online—and that was just one substation. What if terrorists did the same thing in coordinated attacks all across the

country? According to Wellinghoff, they could disable the grid and black out much of the United States.

Whether it's through an EMP, a massive cyber attack, another 9/11 or just isolated sprees of murder and mayhem, military and homeland security officials agree it's just a matter of time before the U.S. faces some kind of terrorist attack.

It might be along the lines of the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India, where terrorists launched a dozen coordinated attacks, gunning down innocent victims at hotels, a bar, a train station, a hospital and a movie theater. In all, they killed 164 innocent people.

Or it might be like the attack on Westgate Mall in Kenya last year. Four armed terrorists linked to al Qaeda were able—thanks to Kenya's strict anti-gun laws—to spend four days torturing, mutilating and gunning down shoppers with almost no fear of reprisal. They killed 63 innocent people and wounded 175 more before they were stopped.

So ask yourself: Could suicidal terrorist mass murderers try to bomb an American hotel, an American train station, shopping mall or movie theater?

Make no mistake: The world that surrounds us is growing more dangerous all the time. Whether it's enemy state actors, foreign terrorists, Mexican drug cartels or domestic criminals, the threats Americans face are massive—and growing.

America's police community knows that every U.S. city of any appreciable size already has a serious, established, drug-funded Mexican drug-cartel presence.

Even the Justice Department admits:

- Mexican drug gangs are operating in more than 1,000 U.S. cities;
- 20,000 gangs with at least a million members are embedded coast to coast;
- More than 100,000 street gang members have been documented in Obama's hometown of Chicago alone.

Add to that volatile mix the thousands of hardened, dangerous criminals that are being released from prisons all over America.

When states can't or won't spend the money needed to imprison their criminals, and those prisons become overcrowded, the courts say to set them free. So now the floodgates are open as our nation's prisons are purged.

The u.s. Justice Department is now planning to release more than 40,000 federal felons before their sentences are served. More than 13,500 inmates *every month* are being released early in California *alone*. The state has even released nearly 3,000 inmates who were *supposed* to serve *life sentences*, including convicted murderers!

On top of that flood, add the waves of drug smugglers, kidnappers, sex-slave traffickers and criminals of all kinds who invade our country from the south every day. Instead of securing the Mexican border to protect the

border is so porous and unprotected that crossing into the u.s. is like crossing the street.

Between 1999 and 2010, at least 6,000 so-called "special interest aliens" were caught illegally trying to cross into the u.s. Authorities admit catching at least three people "linked to terrorism" and one suspected al Qaeda bomb maker.

But how many more did they catch that they didn't tell us about? And if 6,000 were *caught*, how many *weren't*?

Even if you take terrorists and criminals out of the picture, chaos is an ever-present danger to Americans today—especially when you factor in the undercurrent of social unrest that seethes beneath the surface of much of our society.

How many times have we seen peaceful protests in this country

"HACKERS CAN THREATEN THE CONTROL SYSTEMS OF CRITICAL FACILITIES LIKE DAMS, WATER-TREATMENT PLANTS AND THE POWER GRID."

9/11 Commission Chairman TOM KEAN, The Wall Street Journal, 9/10/2014

American people, Obama and his allies play political games with the immigration issue.

Even when they catch convicted criminals coming into this country, Washington's political class does nothing to stop them. Last year alone, according to the Center for Immigration Studies, Obama's ICE authorities intentionally released 36,000 illegal aliens who had *already been convicted of nearly 88,000 crimes*, including 193 homicide convictions, 426 for sexual assault and 303 for kidnapping.

No jail. No prison. Just a stern but meaningless warning—and off they went.

Where all these released criminals went, no one knows. But you can bet on this: They're among us, embedded throughout our society. For all you know, you pass them in your car on your way to work.

And consider this: Terrorists have known for 25 years that our southern

degenerate into riots, looting, shootings, arsons and worse?

How many times have we seen crowds turn into angry mobs after court decisions they didn't like, sports team defeats they felt were unfair, natural disasters that collapsed civil order—or *just for the sheer hell of it*?

And who among us can say with certainty that we'd never face that same kind of out-of-control mayhem and brutality in *our own city or hometown*?

When you consider all the threats encroaching on our country, one fact is clear:

We live in an age when preparing to survive *whatever* comes our way is a simple fact of life or death. It's simply the most prudent way to survive. Prudent leaders prepare their nation. Prudent people prepare themselves.

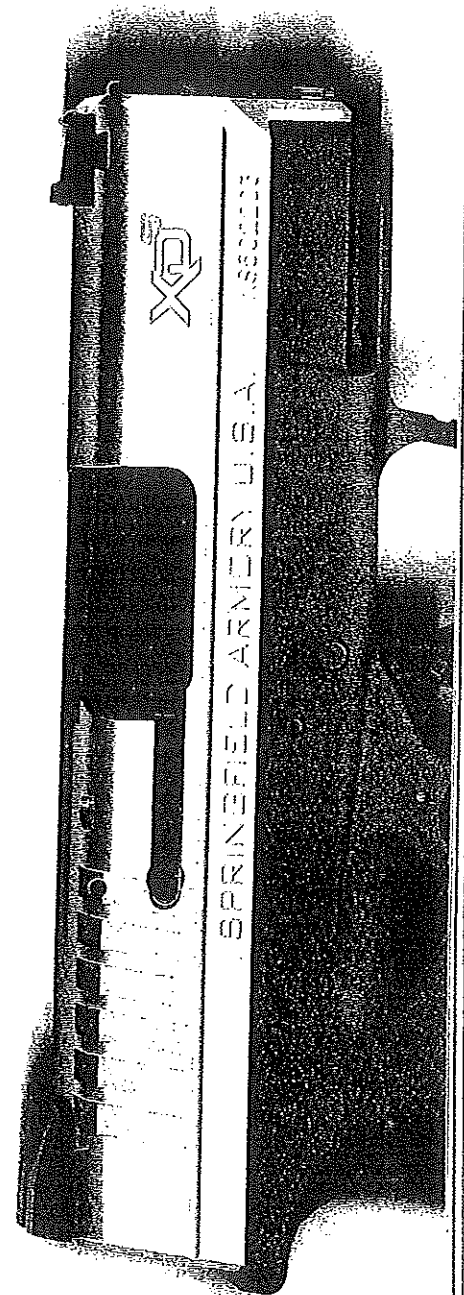
And millions of NRA members and gun owners know the truth: The police can't always be there to protect you. The

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Chaos
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government can't—or won't—protect you, either. Only *you* can protect you.

And nothing provides individual citizens more immediate, undeniable and irreplaceable protection than the Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms. It's the one freedom that guarantees our lives and our freedoms *with force*. It's the one thing we can count on to protect ourselves when nothing else *will* or even *can*.

Now, you can bet the media will pounce upon and ridicule gun owners for talking about these dangers and preparing for the worst. They'll call us paranoid, fear-mongering, reckless and ill-advised. They did the same thing after Sandy Hook, when the NRA said that shielding our schools with police or certified trained armed security was the only proven method to protect them.

Since then, schools everywhere have done exactly what we suggested. They're giving their kids the first deterrent and last failsafe defense against armed madmen who murder without fear. Because they understand—as *we all* understand—that there are surely more madmen out there, planning their attacks on the most vulnerable among us, even now.

We were right. History proves it. The American people know it. And men and women who care about their safety will never let themselves be shamed, ridiculed or accused of being "unreasonable" for defending their God-given right to defend life and limb.

We've proven it over and over again, and we'll do it again on Election Day.

So let this be a declaration to America's leaders: You have no right, no reason and no authority to deny us the protection that the Second Amendment alone guarantees.

We will not be left defenseless. We will not give up our freedoms. We will not surrender our safety to the lies of leaders who promise everything and deliver nothing.

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4, we will defend our right to defend ourselves because we have no other choice. We will vote our guns! We will vote our freedom! And we will prevail! ☪