



**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
445 Randolph Road  
Middletown, CT 06457**

March 31, 2020

As some of you are aware, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 7I (EO) on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The order is extensive and affects a lot of city operations. We want to address its impact on the South Fire District's budgetary process.

In paragraph 13, the EO states, "Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including Title 7, or any special act, municipal charter or ordinance that conflicts with this order, the legislative body of a municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen, shall authorize the budget-making authority within said municipality to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 fiscal year...without holding votes required by charter or without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, including but not limited to, annual town meetings requiring votes, referendum, and special town meetings." The EO also requires the budget making authority, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Fire District, to publicize the proposed budget and receive timely comments, including posting it on the district website and providing an email address for comments.

Many of you might be questioning if this EO pertains to the district. The answer can be found in EO 7C, paragraph 5, regarding Extension of Municipal Budget Adoption Deadlines. The section of EO 7C that applies to South Fire District states, "...the term "municipal" or municipality" shall include all municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations, whether created by statute, ordinance, charter, legislative or **special act**, including but not limited to any town, city or borough, whether consolidated or unconsolidated, any village, school, sewer, **fire**...or **special taxing districts**..."

Justifiably, many people are concerned about losing their voice in district management. However, we pledge to do our best during this crisis to ensure your voice is heard and our normal processes are followed although perhaps in a modified way. It is not our intent or desire to have complete control over the district without your input. We fear we will be facing fiscal turmoil if we enter the new fiscal year on 7/1/2020 without a budget in place and no clear path toward approving one without jeopardizing public health and safety. It is imperative to adopt a budget and set the mill rate to allow us to continue to provide the services we provide. While this step is unprecedented, protecting the health and safety of the public and our staff is, and always has been, our number one concern.

A legal notice outlining important details of the budgetary process, including how you can be included, will be published in the Hartford Courant on 4/9/20. It will also be posted on our website, [www.southfiredistrict.com](http://www.southfiredistrict.com), and on the South Fire District Facebook page.

We remain, as always, committed to an open and transparent budgetary process that holds us to the highest accountability on your fiscal behalf. Be assured, we are committed to do what is mutually best for the department to continue providing the excellent service we provide and you, the taxpayers.

This is an extraordinary situation and we understand it is a lot to absorb. Be assured, we are here for you during this unfolding crisis. We ask you to visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus) to stay informed.

Thank you for your understanding and trust during these extraordinary times. Stay safe, stay healthy, and feel free contact us at [sfdadmin@southfiredistrict.com](mailto:sfdadmin@southfiredistrict.com) with any questions and/or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Mary Bartolotta, Chair  
Deborah Kleckowski, Co-Chair  
Geen Thazhampallath, Secretary  
Sebastian Giuliano, Commissioner