



April 15, 2011

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

The Fire Chief is requesting permission to donate our surplus HazMat equipment truck, known as "Special Teams 1," to Gateway Technical College for use in their Fire Science education program.

The fire department was successful in acquiring an Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant from FEMA last year to replace our outdated HazMat/Heavy Rescue truck, known as "Special Teams 1" (ST-1). The original ST-1 truck was built in 1991 and served as a beer delivery truck until we acquired the unit in 1996 for \$35,000. Funding for this acquisition was from our State HazMat funds and no local levy dollars were used in its purchase. The truck was then converted in the fire department shops to carry our heavy rescue and HazMat equipment to emergency scenes throughout Southeast Wisconsin in compliance with our State Regional HazMat contract.

For years, the old ST-1 was overweight and underpowered for all the equipment we asked the truck to carry. To that end, we successfully wrote a 2009 FEMA AFG grant to purchase a new ST-1. The new vehicle clearly has much more capabilities than the retired vehicle. A condition of the 2009 FEMA AFG grant is that the old vehicle must be permanently retired from Fire Service use and cannot be sold or given to another fire department.

Gateway Technical College (GTC) has an Associate Degree program in Fire Science. This program prepares individuals for firefighting and work in the Emergency Medical Services fields. The Fire Science program is distributed over a moderate geographical area in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties. At times, the program needs bulk firefighting training equipment moved between various locations and training sites. This old truck (ST-1) would provide transportation capabilities for all their training equipment on one vehicle. We truly believe this vehicle donation will help grow the Fire Science program and allow students from throughout the area, especially Racine, to have training aids brought to remote locations in a much more efficient manner.

We are also requesting three (3) stipulations with this donation:

1. Gateway Technical College cannot ever sell or donate the vehicle to another fire department in compliance with our FEMA grant guidance.
2. Gateway Technical College signs a hold harmless agreement with the City over the donation of the vehicle. The vehicle is donated "as is."
3. Gateway Technical College arrange for a sign to be placed on the vehicle indicating the vehicle was donated by the "City of Racine Fire Department."

Again, the original acquisition of the vehicle entailed no local levy dollars and was funded entirely through our State HazMat funds. We will also include miscellaneous equipment on the truck we have deemed no longer of value to the fire department.

Thank you for your earnest consideration in this donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen,  
Fire Chief