



Fire Department

**Mark Rohlfing**  
Chief  
**Michael L. Jones**  
Assistant Chief

June 21, 2010

To the Honorable  
The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners  
200 East Wells Street, Room 706  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully request that the two civilian positions of Fire Education Specialist (pay range 530), that were included as part of the department's 2010 budget, be reclassified to Firefighter (pay range 850), for the following reasons:

- Having firefighters teaching fire safety and doing fire education work adds immediate credibility to the material.
- Firefighters have both knowledge of the department and personal, real life experience working at fires and emergency medical services alarms.
- Having firefighters rotate in and out of the public education assignments helps to solidify the importance of public education and community service to all our firefighters. It is necessary as we work on changing the culture of the department.
- There is no one else better suited to give fire safety and education programs than enthusiastic firefighters, who love their job and the tasks they perform. Their excitement is contagious.
- These firefighters will also be working in our firefighter recruitment program. No one can sell the fire service to children, from youngsters through teenagers, like passionate firefighters. They are a necessity for our recruiting and our efforts to change the composition of our department to match the diversity of our city.

I ask that this request be referred to the Department of Employee Relations for study. A copy of the job description is attached. Please contact Deputy Chief Michael Payne directly at 286-8971 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

  
MARK ROHLFING  
Chief

MR/jlb  
Enclosure  
FPC\Reclass\FES to FF 0610