



Board of County Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire/EMS Functional Consolidation on Track

WOODBINE, GEORGIA - February 12, 2015 – The historic Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreement that joined together Camden County Fire Rescue (CCFR), the Kingsland Fire Department (KFD) and the St. Marys Fire Department (SMFD) was signed just over a year ago in February 2014. The agreement was designed to help improve efficiency, reduce response times and improve the level of service for the citizens of Camden County. Under the agreement, the three departments began training together and the unit that was geographically closest to a call location responded. The first joint training sessions were held on February 5, 2014.

A year later and the results are tangible. CCFR Station 14 (near the intersection of Harrietts Bluff Road and Highway 17) has been closed and the county trucks and equipment moved to KFD Station 5 on Robert's Path adjacent to Mamie Lou Gross Elementary School. In addition, SMFD Station 9 (at the intersection of Colerain Road and St. Marys Road) now has a CCFR ambulance. These strategic changes help to better utilize resources and provide cost savings.

The agreement was the result of unprecedented cooperation between the Camden County Board of Commissioners (BOCC), the Kingsland City Council and the St. Marys City Council. The agreement was one of the options proposed by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Center for Public Safety Management who had been hired in 2013 to study the feasibility of consolidation of fire services within the county. Following the study, a committee was comprised of elected members of the two city councils, the BOCC as well as the County Administrator and the two City Managers.

All the City and County Elected Officials and the City and County Fire Chiefs involved in drafting and implementing the new mutual aid agreed that this is a positive step forward in providing all the citizens of Camden County the best possible fire and EMS service.

County Administrator Steve Howard said the agreement and its very positive results are a testament to the power of committed cooperation. "This is a very important step in the right direction and clearly demonstrates to the people of Camden County that their elected officials and their local governments will work together for the common good. This successful functional consolidation is a proud moment in the history of Camden County."

"Award-Winning Government"

STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

JOHN S. MYERS
County Attorney

WILLIS R. KEENE JR.
Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT
Commissioner, District 4

TONY SHEPPARD
Commissioner, District 5



For additional information, please contact Camden County at 912.576.5601 or visit our website at www.camdencountyga.gov.

About Camden County: Located in the extreme southeast corner of Georgia, Camden County truly is “Georgia’s Coastal Community of Choice.” Originally formed in 1777, Camden County is best known for its rich history, natural scenic beauty and Southern hospitality. Our vision is helping to make this the best place to live by preserving and enhancing the history and quality of life, while promoting smart growth and providing an efficient, effective and responsive government.

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